Congrues of Puspic's Deputies, on Feb. 27. The Series leader instead sought the backing of the standing latter performent, the Supreme Series, merely perliamentarium and least expert.



Shevarduadze proposes Afghan plan

MOSCOW (R) — Seviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardandze proposed plan for ending the Afghan civil war. The 10-point plan article signed by Shevardandre in the government proposed a helt to all arms supplies to Afghanistan and a ceaselfar between the Soviet-backed Kahui government and the U.S.-backed Majahedeett ald be a preliade to the demilitarisation of Afghanistan, the Soviet mister wrote. Shevardandre also proposed a conference on Afghanistan between the Soviet Union, the United States, Pakistan and Iran. It would also be attended by Afghan povernment and opposition figures and the U.N. socretary-general or his representatives. Pakietan and Iran between them heat some five million Afghan refugees who have fled the fighting in their country.

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AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15-16, 1990, RAJAB 20-21, 1410

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PLO sends team to Moscow

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orce, has told TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Lichaptial application Organisation (PLO) is old lyang abstration Organisation (PLO) is born clean sending two members of its Exmodel and a securive Committee to Moscow model and a securive Committee to Moscow model and 0 wednesday to follow up talks on the couple's melarael. Mahmoud Abbas and in Councella Sulciman Najab of the Palestineir three Sulciman Najab of the Palestineir three descriptions. heir three discian Communist Party will also I seem that the briefed on talks last week worth in cross petween U.S. Societary of State lew V. lew York Delames Baker and Soviet Foreign there is a postaines pour Eduard Shevardnadze, ry to break the PLO officials said. as recently &

Trump sai Lebanon attack

orceable in to EIRUT (R) — A Paicstinian and naming in time Israeli soldiers in a clash in after hours in the Israeli soldiers in a clash in after hime israen sosones as The marriage of iouth Lebanon Wednesday. The marriage of Democratic Front for the Libera-News column shiers were on their way to broke the affairly out a raid in larged when ad. The Day bey attacked an Israeli patroi vas so busy placer Marjayoun town. A DPLP ren, as well a tratement said about 200 Israeli alings, that ar biddiers surrounded the guerrillas heir maring ofter the clash in Israel's self-Tump supporteclared "security zone" but and the manipuled to capture them. It named uesday before he guerrilla unit as "Colonel o see the Milekbu Al Loutef." There was no Douglas confirmation of the clash.

gypt police hold sraell bus driver

JELES (AP) - ive detained the Israeli driver of al Simon ad tour bus after finding 99 rounds nder, who diver pistol aurumition in his vehiago, have the security sources said Wednesichard Benjary. They said the unidentified entiss and one iver was taking tourists on ere among the knesday from Israel to Egypt's iding at Simmiled Sea enclave of Tabe. non, 62, and M.

rst wed in Jamyorldwide call to divorced in the Ithdraw Perrier

plays have been RIS (AP) — The president of tion pictures, Arrier, Gustave Leven,. the Park, nounced Wednesday that the Biloxi Bines impany had decided to with-: Boys. Ms. Landaw its mineral water from worlin the now-distribution. Leven told a NOW House Calves conference the company ok the step because "half mea-

offenders res were not possible." Traces OOSE Cash benzene have been found in uples of the water in the Unng seniend States, Canada, the Netherds and Denmark in recent IA, Washington 75.

shington Search easure allowing otests hit choose castral ucharest

for reducing an y as much as he CHAREST (AP) — Hunwas approved has of civilians who sought the House wer neside the army in Decmeig said the man s revolution thronged to Vicig sam me by Square on Wednesday to The measure of officers demanding a on aimed at Rige of military who backed on amoed in the legited Communist dictator Nicon to recent mission, civilians blocked the old Tacons to prevent members of accused backer parachute regiment who have wing "blood has reded the building since the criminals what they claimed were exvears earlied ints of Ceausescu's hated
o serve full principal aritate secret police.

out such a law waiti leader sees

nt or more and and are nt or more was on Wednesday quoted of Brad Own aying that nationwide debate indatory for the future of democracy in the houses bere might go on for a long ines legislifed. "It might take a long time, itizens task form." I am prepared. Kuwait's beitizens task form is in taking our time, not ov. Booth Gallerian is in taking our time, not ," Sheikh Saad Al Abdollah

abah told Al Qabas newspap-Sheikh Saad, who is also e minister, has been receivarominent citizens to explore ajor world cite views.

小., israel to start Iding VOA station

AVIV (R) — Construction Voice of America (VOA) station in the Nagceb Deaimed at 50 million Muslims entral Asia will start within months, Israeli and U.S. als said. Communications ster Gad Yaacobi said the h-dollar station, opposed by environmentalists, was

GKONG

of the "strategic partip" between the United and Israel. Environmentally the powerful radio transis could endanger health save asked the Israeli supcourt to prevent the start of

King, Saudi leader review ties, Arab issues

RIYADH (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein and King Febd Ben Abdul Aziz held talks here Wednesday on bilateral relations and the latest development in the Arab and international scenes, the Jordan News

Agency, Petra, reported. Petra did not give details, but said the talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Advan Abu Odeh and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Queem and on the Saudi side by Crown Prince Abdullah, Defence Minister Prince Sultan, early Thursday.

Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and other senior Saudi leaders. King Hussein held a closed

meeting with King Fahd, the agency added. According to reports here,

the two leaders were expected to discuss possibilities of convening an Arab summit to discuss the Lebanese situation and Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel.

Petra said Tuesday the King was on a working visit to Saudi Arabia, but did not give the duration of the visit. However, it was expected that the King and the delegation accompanying him would return home late Wednesday or



His Majesty King Husseln Wednesday holds talks with King Falid of Sandi Arabia in Riyadh (Petra wirephoto).

protests in Golan

Labour challenges Shamir Israeli forces foil over terms for dialogue

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzbak Shamir, having defeated hardliners in his own party, faced a challenge from his dovish Labour coalition partners Wednesday over terms for

peace talks with the Palestinians. Shamir and his rightist Likud colleague, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, met Vice-Premier Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Labour to seek a way forward in Middle East peace moves after a chaotic Likud meeting Monday.

A senior Labour official said his party was demanding that Shamir agree to the inclusion of Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem and expelled Palestinians in talks with Israel.

In his speech to the 3,000member Likud central committee, Shamir ruled out any role for Arab Jerusalem Palestinians but did not exclude expelled Palesti-

Paiestinian nationalist leader Faisal Al Husseini accused Likud of having created a new roadblock to peace talks.

"Likud removes a small stone only to place a rock on the road. Nobody will participate if Jerusalem is excluded," Husseini, himself an Arab Jerosalem resident, told Reuters.

. The Labour Party official said the disagreements between Likud and Labour were now the only obstacle to a meeting of foreign ministers from Israel, Egypt and the United States to prepare for the first Israeli-Palestinian nego-

Peres has demanded a quick cabinet vote on the proposed dialogue and senior party officials said Labour should bolt the goverument if the proposal is re-

Peres, who in the past has accused Shamir of endangering peace efforts through stalling tactics, suggested that the chaos in Likud heightened the need for quick decision.

the cabinet will make an unequivocal decision regarding the maketip of the Palestinian delegation. There is no point in any delay or avoidance tactics," Peres said on Israel army radio.

Peres did not say when he would seek a vote on the compromise plan, or whether a Likud rejection would prompt him to break up the Labour-Likud coali-

Israeli Attorney General Yosef Harish meanwhile invalidated Industry Minister Ariel Sharon's resignation from the cabinet, ruling that he must inform the government of such plans before submitting a letter to the prime

The step comes as Sharon's supporters inside the Likud bloc. lead by Deputy Prime Minister David Levy, have been trying to persuade the former defence minister to stay in the govern-

Harish's decision gives the former defence minister until the weekly cabinet session Sunday to reconsider his step, which threw Likud into political chaos.

But Sharon's spokesman Moshe Behagon responded to Harish's decision by saying Sharon was "still determined" to quit. If he does so Sunday, the resignation would take effect 48 hours later, or next Tuesday,

Mandela defends military struggle

SOWETO, South Africa (R) -Nelson Mandela defended the energila struccie of the African National Congress (ANC) Wednesday, saying government installations were legitimate

targets for attacks. Mandela said after his release at the weekend from 27 years in F.W. de Klerk's politically risky jail that the ANC must continue. move in legalising the organicaits guerrilla war against white rule tion and freeing Mandeia while the violence of apartheid

continues. Asked in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) if this meant the ANC would bomb shopping centres,

Mandela replied: "We are concerned with govcoment installations..."

Replying to a question about the deaths of white civilians in ANC attacks, Mandela comtered ... just as many whites

have killed many blacks." But Mandela also stressed the ANC's commitment to peace. saying: "If whites want us to move away from the atmosphere of confrontation and conflict then they... must support the government in its effort to reach a peaceful settlement."

The ANC says it is prepared to negotiate a mutual suspension of violence once the government fulfils certain preconditions for Degotiations. But the government wants an

immediate peaceful gesture from the ANC in return for President

The ANC has waged a mostly low-key guerrilla campaign against government targets over the past 30 years, though hundreds of black and white civilians have died in its firearm, bomb and landmine attacks.

Many of the attacks, including a car bomb which killed 19 people in Pretoria in 1983, were later acknowledged by the ANC to be

of the military wing have admitted that their operations have been ineffective, though official policy is to intensify them. Mandela said in the interview that the ANC was taking very

scriously white fears about black

majority rule...

In recent months commanders

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli police and

troops prevented protest demonstrations in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights on Wednesday where thousands of Arabs staged a strike against Israeli rule, residents said. "We will certainly act so that

"Soldiers and police surrounded our village and whenever they saw more than two people standing together they ordered them off the street," a resident of Majdal Shams, the largest of the region's four villages, told Reu-

"We felt they were looking for an excuse to shed blood so people decided to stay in their houses." Police said it was the first time in several years that there were

no street demonstrations in the Golan where some 13,000 inhabitants protest annually against the "annexation" of the strategic plateau, occupied from Syria in the 1967 war.

Several dozen Syrians approached the Israeli border along the Golan and called on the villagers to protest, police said. . In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Palestinians said two Arabs were killed for alleged collaboration with Israel. The body of Abdallah Ihraish,

30, was found near a cemetery in the town of Ramallah. . Residents of Siniil village said military authorities on Wednes-

(Continued on page 3)

'Unaccounted' \$22.5m Petra Bank deal surfaces

AMMAN (J.T.) — Among the argent issues facing the current administrative committee of Petra Bank are international collaterals for \$22.5 million signed by the bank's former chairman, Ahmad Chalabi, and a female employee of the bank, according to informed sources at the bank.

"Primary findings indicate that these guarantees were signed for the purpose of purchasing a shipin Greece for a Greek company, according to one of the sources. "However, there is .. absolutely no record in the bank or any permission by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) for the issuance of such collateral," the source

According to the source, "there are several cases in Greece, Switzerland and the United States related to these collaterals, which have become due

The source said Petra Bank would file a case against Chalabi and the unidentified female "accomplice" in "due time." The affair involving the collaterals "is only a part of other guarantees and loans estimated at tens of millions of dollars in which the former administration got itself involved without genuine counter-guarantees or permission from the Central Bank," the source said.

The legal advisor of the bank Tuesday issued an ultimatum to relatives of Chalabi, who is not in the country, demanding the settlement of loans due to the bank amounting to JD 565,552 and \$42,549. Earlier, the bank demanded that Chalabi repay a loan of about \$1.5 million. According to other sources, the

only property that could be seized by the bank in lieu of loan repayment is homes owned by the Chalabi family, but these do not cover the amounts involved. A home owned by Ahmad Chalabi in Amman is registered in the name of his son, a minor, according to sources.

Investigations are continuing into the affairs of the bank, which was taken over by the authorities prior to implementing its merger with another local bank.

House urges Iraq, Syria to bury rift and form front

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday urged Iraq and Syria to reconcile and build a strong front against Israel and common challenges.

The 80-sent Lower House sent cables to His Majesty King Hussein. Iraci President Saddam Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad urging them to take "actual steps towards mending fences... to build an Arab stand that is capable of facing the threats challenging our nation." "The assembly is asking you to take a national position to defend the rights of the Arab people of

cable, quoted by the Jordan News death," the cable said. Agency, Petra.

coming from Jordan will bear a special significance since this country guards the last defence line for the Arab Orient," the cable said.

"The Lower House deeply feels that at this critical stage, the Arabs are facing the same challenges and this calls on us all to forge a unified strategy that can help the three Arab states confront the Israeli enemy in one

these countries in face of the stand — a confrontation that is a Zionist Israeli enemy," said the choice of life in the face of

Last Sunday, the Lower House "We hope that this appeal issued a call on the leaders of the three countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to unite their efforts in the face of Israeli threats.

In essence, the proposal was for the revival of the "Eastern Front" concept, which was initiated in 1956 by J ordan, Syria and Egypt, but was never implemented because of the tripartite attack on Egypt by France, Britain and Israel.

Jobseekers stage sit-in to protest employers' attitude asking the Labour Ministry's em-

By Samir Hiyari Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Nearly 1,000 Jordanians Wednesday staged a sit-in at the headquarters of the Fedcration of Jordanian Labour Unions in Shmeisani in a show of protest against the attitude of businessmen who give priority in employment to non-Jordanians and make it difficult for tmemployed locals to find jobs.

Spokesmen for the protesters said in a statement to Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times that factory owners and owners of various businesses in the country had been defying the Ministry of Labour's instructions to give priority in employment to Jorda-

Local businessmen have been

ployment offices to find them Jordanian workers and when these offices send the workers they are usually discouraged because the employers offer monthly salaries of JD 50 and JD 60 for à 14 hours of work every day, the spokesmen said.

The protesters met with Dr. Saleh Khasawneh, the Ministry of Labour's secretary general, to whom they presented their com-

The sit-in came one day after the Labour Ministry accused Jordanian businessmen of deliberately creating difficult conditions for Jordanians seeking employment to give themselves the pretext to demand permission for non-Jordanian workers.

The accusation was made by

Khasawneh in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra. He said local businessmen prefer foreign workers who receive less pay and work longer hours.

Some businessmen try to find ways to avoid applying the ministry's regulations and they, more often than not, try to get foreign workers to do jobs for which they do not obtain work permits, Khasawneh added.

He said that by the end of last year, the ministry's records show that there were 200,000 non-Jordanian workers in the country of whom only 48,000 had acquired work permits.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran told Parliament recently that there are nearly 80,000 Jordamians seeking jobs which are now being filled by non-Jordanians.

Geagea rejects ultimatum; Hrawi sends relief to E. Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) --- A militia leader refused to disband his forces and civilians stocked food, water and medical supplies in underground shelters Wednesday to face a predicted offensive by General Michel Aoun seeking dominance of Lebanon's Christian enclave. Christian warlord Samir

Geagea rejected a demand by Aoun to dissolve his Lebanese Forces militia and described the intra-Christian showdown as "sheer madness." "We want all Lebanese poten-

tials preserved, including our military forces," Geagea was quoted by the Voice of Lebanon radio as saying.

The pro-Geagea radio did not say where the militia chief made his remarks. Meanwhile, Geagea's men and Aoun's mostly Christian

Lebanese army troops skirmished with machine gun fire and bowitzers in east Beint and the central sector of the 800-squarekilometre Christian enclave, despite a ceasefire called early in the week by a mediation com-

By police count, the casualty toll from 16 days of Aoun-Geagea fighting stood at 515 killed and 1,724 wounded-The government of President Elias Hrawi, based in Beirut, sent



100 tons of relief aid to be distributed to 10,000 families in the city's Christian sector which has an estimated population of half a million people.

Police said thousands of people choked the mid-city museum crossing to buy food, bread and bottled water from vendors and return to their shelters in embattied east Beirut. A police spokesman said Aoun

and the Lebanese Forces also were distributing "large quantities of food, weapons and ammunition" to fighters in their respective areas of influence in an



Michel Aoun

apparent preparation for renewed all-out fighting. The Ministry of Social Affairs in Hrawi's government, in cooperation with private humanitarian organisations, sent nine trucks and four ambulances carrying the relief aid and quantities of medicines to east Beirut.

The convoy, flying Lebanese Red Cross flags, waited 30 minutes as a bulldozer removed the sand barricade blocking the coastal boolevard at the western entrance to Beirut port on the city's

(Continued on page 3)

Onset of an irreversible process within Jordan

The following editorial opinion by James Zogby, executive director of the Arab American Institute, appeared on page D-4 of the Feb. 12 issue of the Washington Times under the same headline.

still focused on the highly dramatic process of democratisation under way in Eastern Europe, it is perhaps understandable that less clear-cut developments in other regions and countries receive short shrift. Nevertheless, the boundaties of political expression are expanding in both Latin America and the Middle

East and also merit notice. Jordan is an important case in point. Its small and highly vulnerable economy is coupled with the pressures resulting from its physical location across the Jordan River from Israel. Yet recent parliamentary elections there are a clear sign that democratisation — if not democracy — is in the

ascendant.

to Jordan where I met with King Hussein, officials from the Jordanian government, members of parliament and a number of journalists and political analysts. I come back convinced of three

— The process unfolding in Jordan is irreversible. - Jordanians are deeply concerned about Israeli intentions, not only with regard to the occu-

pied Palestinian lands but also because of Israel's impact on the stability of their own country. - Our government is not doing enough to support Jordan's steps towards democracy.

Far from the negative picture painted by some U.S. Middle East analysts, the recent elections in Jordan — in which some 30 I have just returned from a visit . parliamentary seats were won by

religious Muslims — has created neither panic ner great concern among Westernised Jordanians. By all accounts, the elections were remarkably open and free. And while voter participation was rather low — about 40 per cent the process of democracy is still

unfolding and expanding. Muslims made a very strong showing, but inferring that all self-identifying religious Muslims are religious extremists is about as accurate as to suggest that all bearded Jews or crucifix-wearing Christians are fanatics. In fact, with regard to the composition of the Muslim "bloc" in the new parliament, several points should be made:

— The proportion of those Muslims elected who hold truly hardline religious views is far less than the proportion of hardline ideological and religious fanatics

elected to the Israeli Knesset. — The Muslims elected to the

some are quite liberal and flexible .has been lifted. Political groups in their attitudes toward govern- are now functioning openly:

— Those who won did so because they were far more organised and. able to get out the vote. King Hussein's late decision to allow other political groupings to run candidates precluded many victories, while the ability of Muslim groups to use religious institutions for organising purposes increased their advantage.

- Given the anticipated legitimisation of political parties and increased voter participation, a more diverse mix of members of parliament is expected in future elections.

Other important steps have already been taken to free Jordan's political climate. For many, the release of political prisoners and the return of confiscated passports is the clearest evidence

80-member House by no means of the changes underway. Martial share a common ideology, and law, in force for some 25 years,

Demonstrations are now more or less commonplace in Jordan. The government has removed itself from ownership of the press. And in the press and other public forums, a healthy and lively debate is taking place about the

fature direction of the country. Above all, there is a renewed sense of identity and a new national pride among Jordanians. Democratisation is making winners of both the people and gov-

emment of Jordan. Yet while enjoying their new freedoms, Jordanians are still deeply concerned about the precariousness of their situation visa-vis Israel. Not only does Israel's hardline Likud party show no

(Continued on page 3)

willingness to move towards a



Flour is distributed in Asmara, northern Ethiopia, where four million people face starvation.

Fighting rages, famine relief suspended in northern Ethiopia

NAIROBI (R) — Two rebel groups say they have inflicted heavy losses on Ethiopian government forces in battles that stopped famine relief to the drought-hit northern region.

Ethiopia's Soviet-backed government has not commented on the civil war in the north for the last 24 hours. Sudan has reported an influx of 25,000 refugees trying to escape the fighting.

The Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), which launched a big offensive last week, said Tuesday night it killed 600 soldiers in battles near the government-held town of Keren in Erit-

rea province Sunday. The announcement on the clandestine EPLF radio station, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), also said the rebels had captured the Red Sea port of Massawa.

The government reported heavy fighting in Massawa Monday night but has made no comment on the situation since then.

A spokesman for the EPLF fighting for the independence of Eritrea, a former Italian colony, told Reuters by telephone from London that the rebels had repulsed a government sea-borne invasion to try to recapture Mas-

The other main rebel movement in northern Ethiopia, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), said Tuesday night that it killed 1,813 soldiers and captured 1,011 in battles near Wichale in Wollo province on

Friday and Saturday. The TPLF radio said rebel forces staged a successful counterattack at Wichale against the army, which has managed to recapture several towns in northern

The TPLF, based in the northern province of Tigray, is trying to overthrow President Mengistu Haile Mariam and install a broader-based government in Ethiopia.

The increased fighting has stopped all famine relief work in drought-hit northern Ethiopia where, according to the United Nations, up to four million people face starvation.

Relief sources in Addis Ababa told Reuters in Nairobi by telephone the government ordered the Joint Relief Partnership, a consortium of church-based relief agencies, to suspend all food distribution in Eritrea after the EPLF launched its push.

The sources said ships carrying relief aid for Eritrea, which lost 80 per cent of its crops in last year's drought, were being diverted from Massawa to Ethiopia's southern port of Asab.

A Danish freighter carrying relief supplies for the Irish Charity Concern came under fire from a gunboat near Massawa Monday. It was not clear which side carried out the attack.

Relief agency representatives were due to meet TPLF leaders in Khartoum Wednesday to discuss mounting an across-the-lines food aid operation.

Massawa was the last gateway for food and fuel to enter government-held areas of Eritrea. Diplomats said the provincial capital Asmara had to rely on airlifts from Addis Ababa.

but — perhaps more convincingly

By Howard Goller process," Pazner said. Jerusalem as their future capital.

Ankara awaits Greek

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has no expectations from Greece's new

caretaker government but will await a new cabinet after April elections to revive political dia-

logue marred by an ethnic issue, the Foreign Ministry said

"There is political disarray in Greece. A government has been

formed but we do not expect

anything from it," ministry

The new Greek government was sworn-in Tuesday to lead

Minister Moshe Arens, in a de-

parture from recent Israeli statements, has said Israel need not

fear a democratic, united Ger-

In remarks broadcast by Israel

Radio Wednesday, Arens said no

Jew could think about German

reunification without remember-

But he said: "If that united

Germany is a democratic Ger-

many...fully conscious of the re-

sponsibilities that it has towards

the Jewish people, a country that

will contribute to strengthening

democracy throughout the world,

then I don't think that there's a

danger to be concerned about."

The statement was in sharp

ing the Nazi holocaust.

spokeman Murat Sungar said.

Wednesday.

elections to revive talks

Arens: Israel need not fear

democratic, united Germany

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign contrast to remarks by Prime

In a challenge to Shamir's leadership, Trade Minister Ariel Sharon announced at a wild meeting of their Likud Party Monday that he would leave the government rather than accept the premier's proposals for peace talks with Palestinians.

The 74-year-old prime minister, largely ignoring the resignation, gave a typically hardline speech to the 3,000-member Central Committee which nonetheless left an opening for progress towards the U.S.-brokered talks.

"It was a very carefully written speech. I just can underline that he didn't mention anything about that fact," Avi Pazner, his media adviser, told Reuters.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation, backing a 26-month-old revolt against Israeli rule in the occupied territories, wants to inchide the Palestinians who were deported for their resistance acti-

It also wants to include leading Palestinians from Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem, but Shamir ruled them out for fear of casting doubt on Israel's claim that Jerusalem is its "undivided capital."

"He reiterated the broad consensus of Likud that Jerusalem should remain united, is part of Israel, and there is no part for

has been precipitated by the rapid collapse of East Germany's Com-

Greece to a third national elec-

tion in less than a year after an all-party coalition government

"The important thing is to re-

Ankara and Athens ordered

out each others diplomats in

Komotini and Istanbul 10 days

ago m a dispute over Greece's treatment of an ethnic Muslim

Turkish minority in Western

Minister Yitzhak Shamir last

November when he said the pros-

pect of a united Germany was a

grave concern for the Jewish peo-

ple. Shamir's statement angered

West German Chancellor Helmut

Arens made his statement at a

meeting with Canadian Jewish

fundraisers Monday but it was

only broadcast Wednesday,

for a 24-hour visit to Bonn.

shortly before he was due to leave

start a dialogue with the cabinet

to be formed after the (April)

elections," he said.

He said the government had yet to take a position on the reunification of Germany, which munist system.

Shamir signals readiness for peace compromise

TEL AVIV -- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, by choosing his words carefully and standing up to his toughest rival, has signalled to Washington he is ready to go on with peace efforts.

NEWS ANALYSIS

In a gesture to Washington and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin. his Labour Party ally in Israel's coalition government, Shamir purposely kept the door to talks open for Palestinians expelled from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Arabs from East Jerusalem in the

Palestinians view occupied

Despite Shamir's claim to have won a mandate, the vote by a show of hands was complicated by the burly Sharon's simultaneous appeal for constraints on the Israeli leader's peace bid. The meeting ended in confusion.

While still trying to sort out his party problems, Shamir faces another test in the 12-member Likud-Labour inner cabinet.

Labour wants a vote on including deportees and East Jerusalem Arabs. They propose a loophole whereby the East Jerusalem Palestinians can join the talks if they have second homes in the West Bank.

It remains to be seen whether Shamir and the 67-year-old Rabin, co-architect of the government's peace moves, will be able to hold their 13-month-old coalition together.

Their alliance gave birth to a proposal for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories, the heart of current peace efforts, and has given hope to the Americans of an Arab-Israeli settle-

Both Shamir and Rabin, convinced there can be no moves towards peace without a unity government, have resisted efforts in their parties to topple the coalition.

Vice-Premier Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, has threatened to form a narrow government without Likud. But political sources insist such a coalition of left-leaning and religious parties would not last long.

"If Labour stays in the government, it's a clear indication that the peace process can continue," Pazner said.

If the coalition holds and American mediators close the gap between Israel and the PLO. then the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel and the United States will meet, perhaps even this month, to announce the start of the first Israeli-Palestinian

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Sudan reports 37 rebels killed

KHARTOUM (AP) — Government troops killed 37 Sudanese rebels during operations in southwestern Sudan early this week, the armed forces' newspaper said Wednesday. Al Kuwat Al Musallaha said Monday's action, which it called "mopping up operations," was to "restore security stability to citizens" of southern Kordofan and Darfur regions who had been attacked recently by Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels. The newspaper said troops killed 19 rebels near Buram, 836 kilometres southwest of the capital Khartoum. In ambushes in southern Kordofan, government troops killed 15 rebels in Abyei, 360 kilometres away from Buram, and three in the Dilling Mountains 480 kilometres southwest of Khartoum. Troops seized arms and ammunitions, the paper said, but it did not mention arms and ammunitions, the paper said, but it did not mention government losses. The SPLA took up arms in 1983 to demand better economic and social treatment from the government for the south.

Family sends message to hostage

BEIRUT (R) — The family of American hostage Thomas Sutherland sent him a Valentine's Day message of love Wednesday. "We send ourselves with special Valentine love and a prayer that it finds you in heart and health," the message published in the mainly Muslim west Beirnt-based As Safir newspaper said Sutherland, 58, was the dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut when he was snatched by gunmen on June 6. 1985. The pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad group claimed responsibility for his abduction. The Valentine message was accompanied by a picture of Sutherland's wife, three daughters and grandchild. Sutherland is one of 17 Western hostages believed held in Lebanon including seven fellow Americans, four Britons, two Swiss, two West Germans and an Italian.

Algeria opposition wants new parliament

ALGIERS (R) — One of the leading opposition politicians in Algeria accused parliament of obstructing reforms and said it should be dissolved. Revolutionary war hero Hocine Ait Ahmad, who is now the head of the Socialist Froces Front Party, said it was time to replace the parliament with a constituent assembly. "The democratic process is not going as one would wish especially in parliament which is still dominated by the (ruling) FLN and which refuses to allow private shareholdings in public companies," he said on television Tuesday night. "The time has come to dissolve this parliament which is working against the democratic process and the principles of the constitution. We want a constituent assembly," he added. Algeria will hold its first multi-party elections at local level later this year but the term of the national popular assembly (parliament) does not run out till

Egypt launches new African peace bid

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), has made new proposals to end a dispute between Senegal and Mauritania, an Egyptian minister said Wednesday. But three days of informal talks in Cairo between Foreign Ministers Ibrahima Fall of Senegal and Cheikh Sid'ahmad Ould Baba of Mauritania apparently failed to narrow differences. "We have received proposals but no tangible progress has been made," Ould Baba told reporters after President Hosni Mubarak held talks with the two ministers for an hour. Egypt's minister of state for foreign affairs, Boutros Ghali, said Mubarak listened to reports from the ministers about the conflict and gave them his proposals. Trouble between the two former French colonies was sparked by a dispute in April over grazing rights. At least 500 people died during attacks on each other's nationals in both countries. "Mubarak is making all possible efforts to settle the conflict, which we view as a temporary dispute," Ould Baba said. He accused Senegal of raising issues unrelated to the conflict.

Turkish premier to visit Tehran

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut will pay an official visit to Iran from Feb. 28 to March 2, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. "The visit will further solidify the improvements in Turkish-Iranian relations," a ministry spokesman said. Ties were strained last year after Iran criticised a court ban on Islamic-style headscarves being worn at Turkish universities. Both governments recalled ambassadors after Turkey accused Iran of meddling in its internal affairs. The new Iranian ambassador, Ali Reza Bagheri, smoothed ruffled feathers when he visited the mansoleum of the founder of secular Turkey, Kemal Ataturk, on his arrival. Iranian dignitaries previously shunned this diplomatic tradition. A Turkish-Iranian joint Economic Committee will meet in Tehran on Feb. 23-26, the spokesman

Turks protest at Paris exhibit opening

PARIS (AP) - Protesters scuffled with French police Tuesday evening outside the Grand Palais Museum at the opening of an exhibit attended by President Francois Mitterrand and Turkish President Turgut Ozal. Many of the 150 people protesting Ozal's presence were members of the Turkish opposition, the Workers Party of Kurdistan, according to the French news agency Agence France-Presse (AFP). The presidents were at the 6 p.m. (1700 GMT) opening of the exhibit "Suliman the Magnificent." It was not immediately known if the two leaders were aware of the demonstration outside the museum, located between the Champs Elysees and the Seine River. Police arrested about a dozen of the demonstrators who tried to break through security barriers, AFP reported. Metro stations near the museum were closed at Champs-Elysees-Clemencean, Concorde and Franklin Roosevelt. No injuries were reported.

Kabul survives one year after Soviet pullout

KABUL (AP) — One year after the Soviet Union withdrew its army from the fight against U.S.backed Afghan guerrillas, President Najibullah's government points proudly to its survival. But it is still a government under siege, militarily, politically

and economically. Najibullah, former chief of the dreaded Khad secret police, has confounded his most strident critics, notably those in the United States, who predicted a bloodbath and a victory by the Mujahedeen guerrillas soon after the last of the Red Army's troops left

Afghanistan on Feb. 15, 1989. Kabul today is a city of paradoxes and delusions. It is best viewed from afar early in the morning when a dusting of predawn snow gives the sprawling capital a glistening aura. Up close, it's a city of war-

weariness and poverty where

men, women and children slog

through slush and mud, many of them sockless in cracked, secondhand shoes and plastic sandals. It's a city where a 13-year-old schoolboy like Ismail can earn 4,000 Afghanis a month pulling a cart loaded with bags of flour weighing three times as much as he does. His father is paid 3,000 Afghanis a month as an office

Ismail, his black hair and long eyelashes dusted with flour, competes with other young boys — as

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

20:00 News in Arabic

21:30 Programme review

21:46 Local programme

22:20 Arabic film

18:10 Tel Pere Tel Fils

18:35 La Chance aux chansons

19:00 News in French

19:15 Contact magazine

19:30 News in Hebrew

19:45 Varieties

28:00 News in Arabic

20:30 A Different World

21-19 NBA Basketbal

22:00 News in English

22:26 Feature film: "Pancho Barnes"

PRAYER TERES

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazurath Church Swellich

Tel. 810740

...... Programme review

..... News for the Deaf

Koran

Children programme

. Book of Adventure

PROGRAMME ONE

PROGRAMME TWO

worker at the Ministry of Cul-

well as old men — for work during the annual Novemberthrough-February school vacation. His cart-pulling provides the body heat his thin jacket does not supply. He boasts that because of his earnings, his family of nine can afford a little meat almost

At the official exchange rate, Ismail's earnings are worth \$72 a month, while his father's are worth \$55. But at the more realistic black market rate, Ismail makes the equivalent of \$8 while

his father earns \$6. The Afghani has become an almost meaningless currency. Its dollar value has been cut in half in the past year, while fixed wages have not changed. It's more appropriate to view the earnings in the context of meat, which costs between 800 and 1,000 Afghanis a kilogramme.

Ismail's wages are worth about five kilogrammes of mutton, his fathers's 3.75 kilogrammes hardly enough to feed a family of nine for a month, let alone buy rice, bread and cooking fuel. Salaries in Kabul are especially sobering for the foreign visitor who plunks down 3,000 Afghanis

dozen Japanese batteries. President Najibullah and his party are the architects of a similar cosmetic coating in the military and political spheres. Militarily, the Afghan govern-

Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

St. Joseph Church Tcl. 624590. Church of the Assumption Tel.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrasanta Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Amunciation Tel.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.

Armerica Orthodox Churck Tel.

Assume International Clurch Tel.

Evangelical Latheran Church Tel: 811295.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932.

St. Ephrain Church Tel. 771751.

827981, 685326.

Meteorology.

ment forces have expanded their from the statements of the govcontrol, both around Kabul and ernment and foreign diplomats, the countryside. But Mujahedeen

The government claims to have expanded its "security belt" around Kabul and pushed back the Mujahedeen since the Soviets completed their withdrawal a year ago.

"Our defensive line extends between 65 kilometres and 80 kilometres from the centre of Kabul," Brig.-Gen. Gulbahar

Salim told reporters. But an escorted visit to one of the security belt's last outposts, which Salim said was 60 kilometres from the capital's centre, belied the general's assertions, according to the distance gauge on an Afghan army jeep

and familiar landmarks. Asked about this later, Salim unfolded a Soviet map and pulled out a ruler. The distance between the Khak-E-Jabar and Najibullah's Arg Palace in the heart of Kabul measured 35 kilometres.

However, the government has indeed expanded its control. Not to buy a fistfull of "made-inonly did it defeat the Mujahedeen. Shanghai" notebooks and a when they tried to capture the eastern city of Jalalabad last March and April, it has reopened key highways leading east and south of Kabul toward the Mujahedeen strongholds.

Proof of this comes not only

rockets still hit Kabul every day, ' - from the lush displays of although with less accuracy and oranges, tangetines and pornegfewer verified deaths than a year ranates throughout Kabul. At this time of year. Afghanistan produces such fruit only in the warmer zones near the Pakistani border, turf of the Mujahedeen

since the civil war started in 1978. Politically, Najibullah has had a year of attempting to persuade the world that he is ready to share power. Through speeches and the dispatching of envoys to both Eastern and Western Europe, in-

have been no public takers. In Kabul, there is more a sense of hunkering down in the People's Democratic Party that seized power nearly 12 years ago and initially but unsuccessfully tried to impose Marxism on a tribalistic and capitalistic society.

vitations and probes have been

extended to Afghan exiles. There

Sources in Kabul, speaking on condition of anonymity, say Naribullah wants to rename the party to give it a less Socialistsounding facade. The party has long been denounced by the Mujahedeen as a collection of "godless Communists."

Such efforts looked tarnished this week by a change of leadership in the National Front, a purportedly multiparty umbrella group set up about four years

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 35 per cent, Aquba 42 per **USEFUL TELEPHONE** NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Hana Mansour 748364 Dr. Adel Dabdomb 893644 First pharmacy 661912 Ferdows pharmacy 778336 Al Salam pharmacy 636730 Yacoub pharmacy 644945 Stancismi pharmacy 637660

Dr. Ahmad Al Hayek (—) Al Sharas' pharmacy (985238) Bulletin supplied by the Department of The country will be affected by a

cloudy and hazy with possible scattered showers. Winds will be southerly fresh and seas rough. Min./max. temp.

cold front. So it will be cloudy and rainy and a drop in temperature will occur. In Agaba, it will be partly ELECTRICES Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Desence Immediate Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777 Fire Brigade 891228 Highway Police 843402 Traffic Police 896390 Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-Public Security Department 630321 man 16, Aqaba 23. Homidity readings:

Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints

Amman Municipality Overseas Calls 010230 Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101 Jordan Television 773111 Radio Jordan 774111 Water Authority 680100 Jordan Electricity Authority __. 815615 Electric Power Queen Alia Intl. Airport..... 08-53200 HOSPITALS AMMAN:

Historia Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn ... 644281/6 Akilch Maternity, J. Amn. ... 642441/2 Jabel Amman Maternity 642362 Shracitana Hospital University Hospital 845845
Al-Mussher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdeli 666127/37 Al-Ahr, Abdel Italian, Al-Mahajreen 777101/3 Al-Beshir, J. Ashrafich 775111/26 Army, Marka 891611/15 Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50 Arnal Hospital 674155 Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarga National Hospital ... (09)991071

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732 Princes Basma Hospital ... (02)275555 Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275 Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100 Princess Haya Hospital (03)31/1111 POR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal

Jordanian (RJ) information depart-

ment at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. AMETVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 84:45 Singapore, Knala Lumpur (RJ)

49:00 Damacus (RI) 05:20 New Delhi (RI) 69:30 Cairo (RJ) 89:55 Abu Disabi, Bahrain (R. 10:00 Knesit (RJ) 16:36 Lameca (RJ) 17:00 New York, Aussterdam (RJ) 18:16 Casabianca, Tenis (RJ) 18:30 promotor Bangicok (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2) 69:10 Sunta (LH)

. Riyadh (SV) Kuwait (KU) 14:05 Muscat, Bahrain (GF Dhahran (TK Dubai (EK 15:30 Amsterdam (KL Prankfort (LH Zerich, Larnaca (SR \$8:35 London (BA)

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal.(1) 18:45 Rome (RJ)

12:00 Rome, London (RJ) 12:15 Patis (RJ) 12:30 Lamaca (R) 13:00 Baghdad (RJ) 19:40 Kawait, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 20:20 Cairo (RJ) 20:30 Bahrain, Doha (R) 20:45 Dubai, Muscat (RJ) 21:15 Banelook (R.) 21:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal (2) 09:00 Damascus, Paris (AF) 10:10 Frankfart (LR) 14:50 Behrain, Minecat (GF 15:00 Kuwait (KU)

15:30 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)

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MARKET PRICES

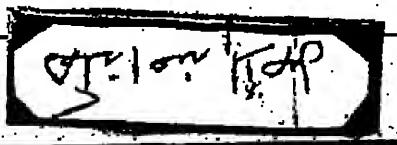
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FOR FRIDAY

Tomatoes administration 140 / 90

PROGRAMME ONE Children programme Religious programme Sports programme Religious sensinat Message from Outen 19:25 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
24:40 News in Arabic .20:30 Local programms Zioto Azabic sones 23:00 News surpressy in Arabic 23:10 Programme coatc. PROGRAMME TWO 16040 Des Chiffres Et de Lettres 19:00 News in French.
19:15 Documentary 19:30 News in Hebrey 20:39
21:18
22:00
News in English

22:20 First Among Equals



Student volunteers in social work honoured

AMMAN (J.T.) — Students who purticipated in the "Charitable Box Programme" organised by the Charstable Piester Fund to cooperation with the Ministry of Education Wednesday received merit certificates from Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The Chantable Piester Pand is a department affiliated with the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) which forest-Ces projects residentaises by charitable societies in the country.

The Queen size distributed certificates to principals of schools which took purt in the programme and presented awards to the Ministry of Educa-

The Queen was presented with the GUVS shield by GUVS President Abdullah Al Khatib, who later delivered a speech outlining the Charitable Piaster Pand's

programmes. He said that a plac-ter-a-day project was launched by GUVS to raise funds for the stoody people, particularly assdents. Through this programme, Khatib said, societies have financed the education of 750 male and female students at universities and community colleges.
With approval from the Minis-

try of Education, a total of 5,000 boxes bave been installed at schools to encourage students to donate a piaster a day for the needy families, he said.

The fund, which was catab-ished in 1984, is supervised by a special committee chaired by Shoikh Izzeddio Al Khatib, the Kingdom's muchi. The Wednesday's ceremony, held at the Palace of Culture, was attended by Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad hismdan and other officials.

Jordan thanks UNDP for development help

AMMAN (Petra) - Minister of Planning Awm Al Masri Wednesday paid tribute to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for its aid in various forms to Jordan and appealed to the organisation to allocate further funds for future programmes in

the country. Addressing a special seminar held here to review the achievements of the fourth phase of UNDP's programmes which ends by 1991, the minister said that UNDP and other United Nations agencies had contributed a great deal towards social and economic development in Jordan since

The revision and reexamination of the projects carried out here, the minister noted, is part of the 1986-1990 five-year development plan in the Kingdom during which UNDP contributed to 31 schemes at a total cost of \$9.54 million. Apart from these contributions, the minister said. UNDP finances training courses to raise the standards of local staff in various departments and public administration.

All these courses which aim to promote human skills can only help the Kingdom deal with its financial and economic challenges, Masri added.

UNDP Resident Representative Ali Attiqa said the seminar was the first of its kind to be

single person or a single group.

most of them at night.

Cultural Centre.

LM. - 8 p.m.).

Police nab suspect in

JD 300,000 burglaries

By Ahmad Kreishan

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Amman police Wednesday announced that they had

arrested a man suspected of committing a series of burglaries

A police spokesman, who identified the suspect only as J.A.,

said the burglaries involved mostly jewellery, video and television

sets, silverware and other expensive items as well as cash and the

The spokesman said police investigating a number of complaints

of burgiaries in the area found that the same modus operandi was

used in almost all cases, indicating that they were the work of a

The spokesman said the suspect was arrested at the Baqua

refugee camp on the outskirts of Amman. He said the suspect

confessed to having committed the crimes and that he had

purchased a car with the money he stole. According to the

The spokesman said several merchants who bought some of the

stolen goods were arrested, and part of the loot was found at the

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and

the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed

EXHIBITIONS

A plastic art exhibition which includes paintings, sculptures and

* An exhibition of photos of plays directed by Chereau, Mea-

guich, Mnouchkine, Plenchon and others, at the French

A photographic exhibition entitled "Panorama 1989" at the

An exhibition of paintings by Alia Ammoura, Nabita Hillari and

Naval Abdullah at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10

exhibition entitled "The Bine Rider" at Mu'ta University.

suspect's home and returned to their owners.

time and place with the concerned institutions.

ceramic works at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

spokesman, the suspect used the car to carry out the burglaries.

target area of the robberies was western Amman residences.

involving items estimated to be worth about JD 300,000.

organised here to revise all UNDP activities and assess the volume of assistance needed by Jordan in the fifth phase starting

in 1992. UNDP has been providing aid directly or through various U.N agencies like the World Health Organisation, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Programme, the U.N. Fund for Population Activities, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Attiga added.

He said Jordan's economic situation and its ability to absorb technical assistance in addition to the Kingdom's continued support for international cooperation entitles it to acquire further financial and technical assistance from all sources.

Taking part in the seminar, in addition to UNDP and the Ministry of Planning, are the Land and Survey Department, the Civil Aviation Authority, the Department of Statistics, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the Royal Scientific Society, the University of Jordan, the National Population Committee as well as the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation, the International Labour Organisation, the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the World Health Organisation.



Dumping of garbage and waste material from

Zarqa plants given guidelines to avert pollution of water

By Mandouh Hawandeh Isam Qadamani

Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN - The Ministry of Health, in cooperation with a number of concerned departments, has embarked speedy measures to protect water resources in the Zarga River Basin against pollution, Minister of Health Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben said Wednesday.

Zaben, in a statement to Al Rai and the Jordan Times, said specific sets of regulations had been sent to companies and factories and other plants located within the basin on disposal of effluence and other waste material within the region and the treatment of waste that flows to the King

He said that "waste material constituted a grave danger to public health and caused damage to the underground water resources."

"Companies and factories have been asked to burn the hard waste and bury the residue, and to treat waste finids coming out of the factories and provide the workers with protective facilities," the minister

The minister, who made the announcement, following a three-day inspection tour of factories in the basin, said the ordered the formation of a special committee to follow up the implementation of these

The minister's tour took him to the King Talal Dam and waste water treatment plants at Khirbet Al Samra, Abn

Nuscir, Baqua and Jerash. The minister said his tour came in the wake of repeated public complaints about the danger of waste material being dumped within the Zarga River Basin with harmful effects on humans and the environ-

He said the complaints and grievances were justified and "it is time that the ministry, in cooperation with other sectors, took drastic measures to deal with the situation."

Last month the Ministry of Water and Irrigation ordered the closure of artesian wells in the Zarqa River Basin due to the high level of chemical polhutants found in the water as a result of industrial plants dumping their waste in the

Arabiyat urges quick action on interest

AMMAN (J.T.) — A request made to the government by members of the Lower House of Parliament to totally abolish interest or to reduce the rate of interest on housing and agricultural loans is designed to alleviate the burdens on Jordanian citizens. according to Deputy Abdul Latif

Arabiyat was one of parliament members who made the request during the recent debates on the 1990 national budget.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Arabiyat said Wednesday that any decision through close coordination among banks and other concerned institutions and credit corporations.

The demand for reducing rates on interest, he said, warrants speedy action since "This is an urgent matter no less important than the question of soaring prices or the reinstatement of dismissed employees," according to **Arabivat** Arabiyat, a member of the

Muslim Brotherhood, was speaking to Petra after attending a parliamentary committee meeting on education. He said that the committee, which met under the chairmanship of Thougan Hindawi in the presence of Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan, discussed an amendment to a law on the Ministry of Education's system

for training teachers. The committee, Arabiyat said,



Abdul Latif Arabiyat

emphasised the need to maintain the present system of issuance of university degrees. The committee, he added, will hold a meeting with the presidents and deans of community colleges and universities to review matters related to the issue.

Geologists to help soil survey project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian Geologists Association (JGA) and the Ministry of Agriculture reached tentative agreement Wednesday on cooperation in implementing a national project for soil survey, and land use.

The agreement was reached at a meeting between Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat and a team representting the IGA board during which details of the project were discussed and the contribution of the association towards implementing it was examined. The project is financed by the European Com-

munity (EC). Arabiyat said the Ministry of Agriculture was willing to provide training to Jordanian geologists in the course of implementing the project and in working out an integrated agro-geological programme, the Jordan News Agen-

cy, Petra, reported. The minister said such cooperation was found to create a nucleus of a geological unit at the ministry to take charge of matters, related to soil protection. The minister called on the IGA to visit the project site and familiarise its members with the work

JGA President George Haddadin said the JGA was willing to provide the ministry with information related to the use of industrial rock as fertilisers to help boost agricultural produc-

JGA members put forward a suggestion that a specific plot of land be assigned for Jordanian geologists who will take charge of greening it as part of the national effort to green the Kingdom by the year 2000.

Arabiyat approved of the idea and said geologists could contribute most effectively towards the country's general development. According to Petra, JGA will

submit a working paper to the Ministry of Agriculture with ideas on integration between the agricultural and geological sectors.

The EC signed an agreement in' April 1989 to grant Jordan JD 2.35 million to finance "the national soil man and land use project" "to identify arable areas and their suitability for irrigated agriculture. The project is funded under the terms of the third EC-Jordan protocol on economic, technical and financial coop-

Study planned on expansion of social development projects

AMMAN (Petra) - The Konrad Adinance Foundation has agreed to conduct a study on the prospect of expanding and increasing its projects to include new areas in the Kingdom, according to a statement issued here Wednesday.

The statement followed a meeting at the Ministry of Social Development attended by two members of the foundation's office here and the ministry's secretary general, Mohammad Squar, during which a general review of the foundation's projects in the Kingdom was made.

The foundation has been establishing or financing social development projects in the rural regions and helping individuals to own and operate income-generating projects. The loans normally are spent on purchasing equipment and other requirements for

the projects, the statement noted. Scour said these projects had been very beneficial for limited income families. The programmes, which started in Jordan in 1982, are being implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development and other concerned authorities,

National seminar opens on poultry industry

AMMAN (Petra) - A national seminar on poultry industry was held Wednesday at the Training and Development Regional Centre for Poultry Industry.

The seminar, opened by Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Sami Sunnaa', centred on problems of poultry industry in

During the seminar, farmers reviewed some of the problems related to veterinary vaccines. efficiency, and use.

Agriculture Ministry officials noted that veterinary vaccines were currently produced at the Jordan Centre for the Production of Veterinary Vaccines with a production capacity of 107 milhon vaccines, half of which will be used locally.

The farmers, discussed also the problems they face in poultry breeding and marketing.

During the meeting, Sunnaa' agreed to form a committee in order to study the percenage of man. We thank those who helped order to study the percenage of man. We thank those who helped tion of anonymity, said Aoun front any attempt by Aoun's mediatribution of corn to farmers us," Abi Nader told reporters. informed the mediation committee to storm through our lines." and to prepare recommendations to find suitable solutions.

The seminar was organised by the Training and Development Regional Centre for Poultry Industry in coopertion with officials at the Ministry of Agriculture and a number of technicians working in the field of poultry.

Jordan Times

Tel: 667171

Cypriot official calls for increased cooperation

AMMAN -- Visiting Under-Secretary of Cypriot Foreign Ministry Angelos Angelides Wednesday called for continued cooperation between his country and Jordan in all fields and said that an agreement signed Tuesday to promote scientific and cultural cooperation was of extreme importance to Cyprus and future bilateral cooperation.

The Cypriot official was speaking at a meeting with Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar with whom he reviewed bilateral relations, parliamentary affairs and regional issues.

Angelides said a recent statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir about forming a "greater Israel" manifests "Israel's evil desire to use the influx of Jewish immigrants to communities.

achieve its ambitious goals." Arar briefed the visitor on Jordanian parliamentary life and the country's general policies. Arar received from Angelides an invitation to visit Cyprus at the head of a Jordanian parliamen-

tary delegation. The Cypriot official Tuesday signed an agreement here paving the way for cooperation in scientific and cultural fields between his country and Jordan.

Later, Angelides met with a number of Jordanian journalists over lunch at the Inter-Continental Hotel. The function was hosted by Cypriot Ambassador to Jordan and Syria Nicolas Macris.

He briefed them on efforts to solve the Cyprus problem, stressing that the crisis there can in no way be seen as a religious conflict between the Greek and Cypriot

Angelides, who had served as Cypriot ambassador to Moscow and accredited to other Eastern European countries between 1979 and 1984, also voiced hope that changes in Europe and relaxation in relations between the superpowers would help solve problems in Cyprus and the Mid-

The Cypriot official landed the agreements he signed in Jordan as a demonstration of his country's determination to further cement ties with Jordan and the rest of the Arab World. This is a prelude to further cooperation, and we expect to sign two more accords in the near future," he said.

Angelides ends his visit bere Saturday, when he leaves for Saudi Arabia to link up with a delegation from the Cypriot business community to discuss Saudi-

Consultant stresses Jordan's need to focus on exports

By Nur Sati Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As the general mood in Jordan shifts to selfreliance, exporting has become a trend amongst local industrialists striving for a share in bigger markets. But lack of information and export advice can delay the process. The Private Services Development Project (PSDP) of the Ministry of Planning, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) aims to meet these essential requirements, partly using foreign expertise. Business consultant Jayant Kalotra arrived in Jordan last week on a PSDP assignment. He is a native of India and a resident in America. and has studied markets and industries in the Third World.

Together with PSDP, his aim is to create a strategy to expand Jordanian services availability and the range of domestic and foreign users so that they would be competitive with other goods and services in regional and international markets. PSDP helps industries that have export potential and by that token, can increase the number of employees.

PSDP targets services like accounting, auditing, computer services, industrial management and engineering as well as marketing, research and adver-



Javant Kalotra

"We work alongside institutions and designate short term goals," Kalotra says. He believes that Jordan has the potential to become an economic centre for the region. For a start, the Kingdom's geographical position gives access to transport over land, sea and air towards other regional countries. Jordan's political modcration encourages foreign investors, and most importantly, Kalotra says, Jordan has the qualified people although there is a lack of training.

Since it is not the first time Kalotra visited Jordan and studied the market, he notes that there is an increasing awareness within Jordan's exporters who are

gaining experience to boosting their potential — the key to Jordan becoming more self-suffi-

"We have to look into what is really needed in order to increase foreign exchange revenues from the targeted services and improve export earnings," Kalotra points out. Additionally, more jobs for the professional and skilled workers in the Kingdom will emerge.

Kalotra stresses that needs are directed towards knowing which products are competitive for the region as well as conducting marketing research for other areas such as East and Western Europe. Kalotra sees Eastern Europe as a strategic customer for the region for consumer items. He also points out that cooperation between regional countries is needed and thus a regional strategy. At the present time, Kalotra says, Third World states are fighting for a share in the same market, causing economic difficulties for the countries concerned.

Jordan must encourage foreign investors to establish manufacturing plants in the country. But even though much needs to be done for the country to benefit from exporting, Kalotra was optimistic about Jordan's future, saying that the country has comparative advantages over other Arab states because of its people, position and stability.

Onset of an irreversible process

(Continued from page 1) "land for peace" settlement with the Palestinians but it has accelerated its "Jordan is Palestine" campaign. Israel's renewed efforts to resettle some 600,000 Soviet Jews in the West Bank and to force Palestinians out of that area into Jordan arouses the fears of Jordanians for the stability of

their country. That Israel's actions are accompanied by a 20 per cent increase in U.S. aid to that country including a hefty chunk for settling Soviet Jewish immigrants ---

is also cause for concern in Jor-

dan. The fact that the United States is doing nothing to censure Israeli resettlement policy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza nor to stop Israel from violently suppressing the Palestinians' uprising for national democratic rights nor to support Jordan's move towards democratisation is at best puzzling.

Surely if an East European government were behaving in a similar manner (as some have in the recent past) — occupying the territory of another ethnic community while violently suppressing its desire for freedom; threatening to expel the inhabitants and to install its own people in that territory; and doing all this with U.S. funds — we would react differently.

And while we offer assistance to the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe in order to ensure their economic stability, how can we not do the same for Jordan'

Jordan is asking why we have a double standard with regard to democracy in Eastern Europe as opposed to a similar process in the Middle East. It's a question that deserves to be answered.

Geagea rejects Aoun's ultimatum

(Continued from page 1)

dividing green line.

Heavily armed Lebanese Forces militiamen in clive green fatigues waved the convoy through the port vicinity after the sand barricade was removed. A token force from Aoun's

estimated 19,000-strong army, which was in charge of Beirut port, defected to Geagea's militia a few days after the confrontation broke out Jan. 30. Archbishop Khalil Abi Nader,

the Maronite Catholic spiritual leader for Beirut, sponsored unloading the relief aid at a church in the district of Ashrafiyeh, a stronghold for Geagea's militia which is beseiged by Aoun's troops on several fronts.

"This is aid from man to fellow

Geagea's renewed rejection came a day after the general reiterated his proposal that the Lebanese Forces should be transformed into a political organisation and its fighters should join

want a political responsibility, Aoun said of Geagea's militia, noting that the fighters "should be integrated into an official apparatus. They are an unceeptable tumor in our body."

They are welcome if they

Reliable sources said Aoun has threatened to launch a sweeping offensive across Kesrouan province in the Christian heartland north of Beirut to crush the Lebanese Forces if it refused to disband peacefully.

One source, speaking on condi-

tee of his threat Wednesday. The committee, which includes three independent Christian fignres, "relayed the general's message to Geagea," said the source, close to the committee. He said the mediators "need a

"We are not in the age of miracles, but one cannot stop hoping," the source noted. He refused to elaborate.

miracle to succeed in their mis-

The Lebanese Forces command, in a communique, reported "suspicious troops movements" by Aoun's forces along the eastern and southern flanks of Kesrouan, the militia's main source of support.

The short communique said the militia has taken "all the needed precautionary measures to confront any attempt by Aoun's men

Israeli forces foil Golan protests

.(Continued from page 1)

day contacted relatives of Ibra-him Abdul Salam, 22, and said his self-confessed killers had led Israeli agents to the missing man's corpse.

Leaders of the 26-month-old Palestinian uprising Wednesday ordered attacks of settiers in the occupied territories to protest at the settlement of Soviet with immigrants.

In separate leaflets distributed secretly in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, both the Unified

Leadership of the Uprising and the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas movement said the influx of Soviet Jews endangered the survival of the Palestinian people. "In confronting attempts to

settle new Jewish immigrants in our Palestinian state, the Unified Leadership of the Uprising calls on the strike forces to increase attacks on settlers and to burn the land under their feet," one leaflet

The hardline Hamas called for severing ties with Washington

and branded Moscow "an enemy of the Palestinian cause." The Islamic group also praised the attack on Israelis in Egypt last

week in which nine Israelis and two Egyptian security guards were killed. "The timing of the bus attack came with the increase in Russian immigration to Palestine, and

through such means Jews can be stopped from coming to Pales-The Hamas leaflet also called

on the PLO to cease contacts with the United States.

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t Cultural Centre -- 5:30 p.m.

cinema - 8:00 p.m.

FILM

lesture film entitled "Sophie's Choices" at the American tre - 7:00 p.m.

wiet film entitled "Love Since the Time of War" at the

The European Film Festival

film entitled "Birthday Town" (Timzaday) and a film entitled "Bewitched Love" (Friday) at Phi-

Jordan Times

الأرأن تابيز يومية عربية سياسية مسكلة تصعر بالإنجابزية عن للإسمة الصعلية الأرمنية

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Court system that needs overhaul

THE ONGOING deliberations under the leadership of the minister of justice to modernise court procedures in the Kingdom is a step in the right direction, albeit much overdue. We know only too well that for Jordan's civil and criminal courts to handle adequately and expeditiously the cases now before the defunct martial law court system, they would have to undergo profound improvements.

One of the many shortcomings of existing court procedures in Jordan is the lack of efficiency in the conduct of trials at all levels. To be able to cope with the volume of cases pending and projected to be submitted before Jordan's civil and criminal courts in the wake of the decision to phase out the martial law regime and court system, Jordan's judicial system needs a thorough overhaul and profound changes, especially in court procedures. Otherwise the vacuum created by the abolition of martial law courts can never be filled.

There is no way such overdue improvements can be realised without the introduction of appropriate technology to the court system in Jordan. Unfortunately, however, the centre of attention thus far is to amend existing court procedures as if the problem or the bottlenecks in the trial systems in the country are attributed solely to existing laws and procedures. Take for example trial transcripts that are recorded in the same old style which is reminiscent of the days of the Ottoman empire. Here, it is obvious that no amount of change in the laws and trial procedures of the country would do the required job.

Of course serving summons in a more expeditious manner would also go a long way to alleviate the trial impediments. Punctuality in convening court sessions also would help greatly in speeding up trials. Such comprehensive corrections would be the surest way to respond favourably to the old juridical adage which states "justice delayed is justice denied." The volume of trials in the country is simply too big to be dealt with in the same old archaic way. Technology, both in its intellectual and mechanical dimensions, is thus the answer to Jordan's chronic trial delays and deficiencies.

Of course, no one would want the ongoing efforts to modernise court trials and procedures to rest just with the introduction of technology or with punctuality of trials or whatever. The decorum of courts in the country too has a way to go to even reach the most elementary requisites of legal court decorum. Justice must be performed not only in substance but also in form. In deference to another old juridical adage, "Justice must not only be done but should also appear to be done." Nowhere in Jordan's present court adjudication can one find such a requirement fulfilled.

In any case, the fact that the concerned Jordanian authorities are now seized with these issues come as a comfort to all citizens, especially those who are either litigants or potential litigants. The actual consequences of the ongoing debate on how best to modernise Jordan's judicial system from head to toe would tell the final story of how serious the country is in wanting to catch up with development, in jurisprudence as well as anything else.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

THE INFLUX of Soviet Jews in Palestine and the situation in the occupied Arab territories must have been on the top of priorities for King Hussein and King Fahd at their meeting in Saudi Arabia, Al Ra'i Arabic daily noted in editorial Wednesday. It said that there is no doubt that this is the main challenge for the Arabs and the most pressing danger they are facing at the moment. The paper called for a united Arab front that can rise to the level of this dangerous challenge and to confront this grave situation. The Arab masses realise this obvious fact and can only trust in their leaders to lead them to unity and to strength and solidarity at this critical stage in Arab history, the paper continued. It said that the Jordanian family stands united in a display of great cohesion and support behind its leader King Hussein, and it remains loyal to the monarch who is serving his people and endeavouring to unite the Arab countries in the face of the common threat.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Wednesday urges the concerned authorities to take steps for reviving the civil and military service consumer corporations. In the light of soaring prices and to help the needy and the low-income groups cope with the present economic situation, these consumer corporations ought to be able to offer all sorts of products to the employees at reasonable prices to help them cope, says the writer whose articles appear under the pseudonym Nazih. These corporations have been originally established in Jordan to help the employees whose income is very limited to cope with the soaring prices and the economic situation in the country, and therefore, different commodities needed by these employees ought to be available at very reasonable prices, says the writer. He notes that these consumer corporations had to reduce their operations and services over the past few years in the face of protests and complaints that they were competing with the private sector in trade and commercial dealings, but now the time has come for the concerned authorities to realise that the situation has completely changed and there is bad need for reviving the corporation's role as a means of coming to the aid of the less fortunate groups in one society.

Shamir is now running the show all by himself after the resignation of Ariel Sharon; and the way is now open for him to carry out whatever he sees fit in the course of applying Israeli terrorism and further atrocities in the occupied Arab territories. said Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily Wednesday. Shamir who always considers Jordan as the key to solutions in the Arab area, and that Jordan should serve as the substitute homeland for the Palestinians is reportedly now making preparations for an aggression on this country, the paper noted.

Gorbachev secures Western flank amid party struggle at home

By Patrick Worsnip

MOSCOW — President Mikhail Gorbachev is acting rapidly to stabilise relations with key Westem powers the United States and West Germany as he steers his. country towards major reforms. that could mean a multi-party democracy.

Decades of prejudice against German reunification were put aside as Gorbachev calmly told. Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the weekend that it was up to East and West Germany themselves to decide how and at what speed to merge.

And, at talks last week, Soviet and U.S. negotiators sliced through much of the technical detail that is holding up strategic arms (START) talks and, in the words of one U.S. official, "broke the back" of a START treaty.

U.S. Secretary of State James said. Baker as debate was still raging in

the Soviet Union over a central committee meeting last week that decided to surrender the Communist Party's 70-year monopoly on power.

With the political ferment at home, which also includes ethnic turmoil in the Caucasus and growing separatist trends in the Baltic republics, the Soviet leader has evidently decided this is the time for strong, secure ties with the West.

Commentator Igor Belyayev, speaking on Moscow Radio, expressed a view often beard from Gorbachev supporters that all other problems facing the Soviet people today were outweighed by the outcome of Gorbachev's foreign policy.

"Standing in queues, worrying about shortages, about interethnic problems, I think we should remember that the greatachievement of perestroika has been to remove the threat of war Gorbachev dealt with Kohl and which hung over all of us," he

Soviet officials are making dangerous.

clear that the Kremin has decided some form of German remification is a foregone conclusion and is already looking to the relationship it will have to forge with the new Germany.

Spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said that at his meeting with Kohl, Gorbachev "expressed the wish that when these changes take place, they will not destroy. what has been achieved in our relations, but will enrich our two countries."

Official Soviet reports of the meeting quoted Gorbachev as stressing his bottom line that whatever German arrangement was worked out must preserve European stability, with the concerns of Germany's neighbours taken into account.

Gorbachev's remarks have set the tone for what remains a controversial subject in Moscow, with politburo conservative Yegor Ligachev making clear in the central committee that he regarded the whole idea as highly

Other officials have put two specific conditions: -There must be an acceptable

solution to the military balance: Warsaw Pact member East Germany currently hosts 380,000 Soviet troops and West Germany 400,000 foreign NATO troops. Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has stated his preference for German neutrality rejected by NATO - but has not ruled out other possibilities.

- The Germans must drop any idea of recovering territories lost to Poland and the Soviet Union after World War IL

Although German unity seems to be bearing down fast, with first moves likely after elections in East Germany on March 18, Moscow still appears confident that progress towards a new European security order will'be able to cope with the issue.

An East-West force reduction agreement expected later this year will reduce the scale of the military problem by making big cuts in the number of U.S. and have been cleared, and both

Soviet troops in Germany probably to about 200,000 men

per side. The agreement will be signed at a summit of the 35 states party to the conference on security and cooperation in Europe which, both superpowers hope, will speed the transformation of NATO and the Warsaw Pact into

mainly political alliances. Baker, during his Moscow visit, even hinted that Washington might be willing to accept a united Germany that, although linked with NATO, would not be a full member.

The hoped-for troop cut accord now seems almost certain to be complemented this year by a U.S. Soviet START treaty under negotiation since 1982 that will haive superpower arsenals of long-range nuclear missiles and bombers.

Many of the niggling disputes about verifying cruise missiles, coding test data and counting non-deployed "spare" missiles countries hope to have the treaty outlines ready for their next summit in June.

The summit, which will be held in the United States, is shaping up as another of the set pece foreign events with winds Corbachev will secure his western flank, as he battles at home to transform the Soviet political and

economic system.

A key point in this struggle will be the next Communist Carry congress, now scheduled his the end of June and early July that will probably witness a strangum between the reformers much conservatives.

Although no exact dates live been fixed for either the constrain or the summit, the odds are that the summit will come first

If so, it will suggest both that Gorbachev hopes to use the summit and the arms control agreements it produces as a weapon against his domestic focs, and that he is confident enough to spend several days abroad in the

Kashmir: From bricks to Kalashnikovs

By Dilip Genguly
The Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India — Three years ago they threw stones at Indian security men. At the first sign of retaliation, they would run for cover and flee into the narrow lanes of Srinahar, only waving clenched fists as a gesture of defiance.

But today's Kashmir militants, most of them in their 20s, flash Kalashnikov rifles and make Molotov cocktails in their homes. Intelligence reports say they have acquired rocket launchers and even Stinger missiles.

Armed Muslim activists campaigning for Kashmir's independence are battling an estimated 40,000 Indian soldiers.

"India now faces the risk of fighting a prolonged guerrilla war in Kashmir," said a retired colonel of the Indian army. "And like most other guerrilla war situations, the odds are in favour of the terrorists." He spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Over the years these terrorists have graduated into becoming real fighters, not in the conventional sense, but as guerrillas, said Jitendra Narain Sazena, the director general of Jammu-Kashmir's 40,000-man police force. "Before the police could just

scare them away. But today they stand up and try to defy," Saxena Saxena would not discuss the reasons for the change of mood in

Kashmir, where analysts say India faces the toughest challenge to its unity in the country's 42 years of independence. But Gov. Jagmohan, the area's administrator, ruled out any

threat to India's sovereignty. "The issue is very simple," he said in an interview at his home guarded by Indian troops manning light machine gun positions behind bunkers. "There was lack of economic development, people are frustrated."

"Once we set things right, Kashmir will again become jannat (heaven)," said Jagmohan, who uses only one name. In the wave of separatist vio-

lence that began Jan. 20 with the arrest of over 250 people, at least 82 people have died. Jagmohan, a Hindu known as a tough administrator, ordered the Jan. 20 crack-

The killings and open defiance by the militants triggered a near panic in the administration. Curfew was imposed for days, the army was called out and foreign journalists expelled from the state. Curiew passes granted to local journalists were withdrawn and Indian journalists working for foreign media were confined

Jammu-Kashmir, home of 6 million people, is India's only Muslim majority state.

Nationwide, Muslims account for about 11 per cent of the country's 880 million people. But in the Kashmir valley, the stronghold of the militants, Muslims make up 94 per cent of the 3.5 million people.

Kashmir became part of the Mogul empire when Akbar invaded the area in 1586. The Afghans annexed it in 1756. The Sikhs came in 1819. A Hindu king took it over in 1846.

When Britain divided the subcontinent in 1947 into Islamic Pakistan and Hindu-dominated India, Kashmir was given the choice to either remain independent or join either of the two nations. After initial hesitation. the king joined India and triggered a Pakistani armed invasion.

A.brief war followed and India claims that of the state's 222,236 square kilometres. Pakistan is in "filegal occupation" of 78,932 square kilometres. New Delhi also alleges that Pakistan gave 42,735 square kilometres of terri-

tory to China when Islamabad and Beijig signed a boundary agreement.

portance to the terrorists," said a senior Indian intelligence officer in Kashmir. "There is no way that they can

"We are giving too much im-

fight the Indian forces to a decisive battle," the officer said on condition of anonymity. But the officer, who coordin-

ates the state's intelligence network, acknowledged the militants have an advantage at the mo-"How do you fight them?" he

asked. "In guerrilla warfare, there is no clear cut victory or What is worrying the adminis-

tration is the growing popularity of the militants and their call for independence. Intelligence reports attribute

the popularity to fear. But many, including some junior government officials and some Kashmir police, admit privately that even if they do not support the militants, they do not oppose them

"In Kashmir today everyone, even a 10-year-old boy, is in favour of independence," said Maulvi Mohammad Farooq, the chief Muslim clergy of Kashmir Behind a graveyard in the old Srinahar district, 11-year-old

Riaz Sheikh fondles his toy Kalashnikov and waits for his friends. Not to play, but to discuss how to become Muslim war-Before we played cricket, but

now we talk about how to liberate Kashmir from India," said Riaz, whose brother, Hamid Sheikh, a top militant leader, was shot and wounded by the police.

"If police actions are not stopped, I have to ask the people to join the armed struggle," the 45-year-old Farooq said in an interview at his fortified home in

French fear German economic domination

By Alan Wheatley

PARIS — Officially, France sees upheaval in Eastern Europe as a great commercial opportunity. But unofficially, age-old fears of German economic domination have resurfaced — the French fear they may in the end be big

Not only are French companies dragging their feet in the great rush East, but the prospect of a West German economic boom points to a widening growth gap with France and an even greater role for the mark within the EC's European monetary system

"The events in the East will reinforce the polarisation of the EMS around the mark," Christian de Boissieu, a professor at the University of Paris, told a conference here last week on the economic impact of the political upheaval in the East bloc.

To dilute growing German influence, France should push for quicker implementation of the Delors report on European economic and monetary union. "It's the only way for France to live with this asymmetry," de Boissieu said.

Jean-Paul Fitoussi of the Observatoire Français des Conjonctures Economiques (OFCE), an independent research group, has tried to quantify how much West Germany stands to gain.

East bloc changes were likely to boost West Germany's gross national product by 3.5 percentage points by 1993, while the rest of the European Community would grow by only an extra 1.5 points, he told the conference.

French Finance Minister Pierre Beregovoy says he is not worried by the growing momentum for German monetary union, calling it inevitable. But he said that he expected to be consulted by Bonn on its offer to hold immediate talks on monetary union.

"I am waiting for explanations from the West German government," Beregovoy said. For reasons of history, geogra-

phy and industrial strength,

France is not as well placed as West Germany for the race East. French exports to centrally planned economies have been running at about three billion francs (\$535 million) a month. around three per cent of total exports.

Raymond Courbis, director of economic research firm Gama. said France was unable to capitalise fully only bigger market opportunities because its industry was already running flat out. "The impact on the French

economy will be limited because of capacity constraints," he said. Nor are French companies rushing into joint ventures or massive direct investment in Eastern Europe. Among the best publicised

deals, state-owned computer group Compagnie des Machines Bull is investing 600 million francs (\$107 million) in Hungary, construction giant Bouygues is building a hospital near Moscow and hotel group Accor is venturing into the Soviet Union, Poland and Hungary.

But French plans pale beside those of West German firms. which have already announced plans to pour billions of marks into East Germany and other reforming East European econo-Vehicle-maker Renault has

signed a draft accord to assemble vans in Czechoslovakia from the end of 1992; but Chairman Raymond Levy is cautious about East bloc business prospects. "We're not going to rush in," he told Reuters recently. The head of a state-owned

bank, who declined to be identi-

fied, was even more sceptical. "There are only two countries in which it's worth investing in Eastern Europe — Hungary and the Soviet Union," he said in a recent conversation.

French food industry executives are not dicking their lips either, even though East European consumers have been starved of the sort of fine food for which France is famous.

Lionel Zinzou-Derlin, strategy and development director at food conglomerate BSN, said his company was exploring opportunities on Eastern Europe, especially East Germany. But he saw a host of barriers to

overcome - lack of skilled # ? labour, poor distribution networks, an irrational price system and the risk that latent hyperinflation may spark social unrest. In Many ways, he told the conference, the economies of

Eastern Europe are like developing countries and face a long baul to prosperity. "It's going to take a lot longer than economic circumstances would lead you to believe." he said. Although none of the confer-

ence speakers could refute the BSN manager, Fitoussi of OFCE commented, "I'm worned that these attitudes are spreading. quickly among French firms."

LETTERS

Objective reporting

To the Editor:

ON behalf of hundreds of Petra Bank employees, we thank it

and Sana Ativeh for the article published in the Jordan Timeson Feb.-3, 1990 regarding Petra Bank's issue. We wish to confirm that your article was true and complete if

compared to other newspapers. It is a fair and objective article since it covered the opinion of different parties involved. Congratulations.

Let individual decide

To the Editor:

THE central issue behind the exchange of letters between Claire de la Piume and E. Yaghi (Letters to the Editor, Jordan Times Jan. 25, Feb. 6, 1990) is not the question of whether alcoholic beverages should continue to be served on Royal Jordanian or whether democracy is confused with "the freedom of the persuance of evil." The issue confronting the Jordanian people is religious tolerance.

His Majesty King Hussein has recognised that the strength and future of Jordan lies in pluralism. Jordanians are of different ethnic and religious origins; they are drawn from many different points on the compass to become one community of citizens. The cornerstone of phuralism is religious tolerance, the recognition that it is God alone, who judges, and the knowledge that individual religions have sometimes different codes of behaviour. Love of one's own religion should not descend into becoming disrespect and criticism of those of other faiths. I do not believe E. Yaghi meant to imply that there is some relation between the religious codes, other than Islam's and "the imitation of bad

morals. Those who seek to force Jordanians into one mould only help to split us into fragments, making us easy prey for our enemies under whose policy of "divide and rule" we suffered for over four decades.

Governments, their agencies, and public institutions, such as Royal Jordanian, should be neither the interpreters nor the enforcers of religious belief. In Islam, we have the ulama of the faithful. Nothing else is required.

If Claire de la Pieune wants to liave an aperitif on an RJ flight, let her. I find no offense in that. Her example will not force me to drink. Only those who want to be offended will be. I do not need a parliamentarian or a burcancrat to intervene. E. Yaghi, as an American, should know that once begun, government intervention knows no limits.

Abu Direct

Ouality control

To the Editor,

IN an article published in the Jordan Times on Feb. 8, concerning the lifting of a ban on the importation of apples to Jordan, J noticed with regret that the article contained incorrect information about apples imported from Turkey. I am sure you are aware that exported apples, just like any exported foodstuffs, are subject to quality control at various customs posts, where only apples meeting the specifications are exported. . The claims that deficiencies in the exported material - that

might occur after making the qualitity control check by export authorities — is related to the place of origin, and the publishing of such news that imply shortcomings on behalf of the exporter. are only incorrect and lack accuracy.

I am confident that your newspaper seriously wishes to promote and enhance economic and trade relations between our two countries. However, because such inaccurate information could result in negative attitudes towards exporters, I find it incambent on me to request you to be extremely careful when publishing such news and to exercise more responsible journalism.

Ibrahim Onlo

Economic and Commercial Commenter Turkish Embassy, Annual

It was this historical conflict bred in The

Rushdie starts second year in hiding By Kate Dourian Satanic Verses, an allegorical

LONDON -- His book has sold over a million copies but for author Salman Rushdie the sword is proving far mightier than the pen as he begins a second year, and possibly the rest of his life, in hiding under death sentence from

Iran. Rushdie, toast of London's literary circles even before publication of his controversial novel The Satanic Verses, has been forced into a shadowy, secret life. It was a year ago that the late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini branded Rushdie's

lims to kill him and those associated with its publication. Khomeini's successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, last week renewed the death sentence on the man who describes himself at a

book a heresy and ordered Mus-

lansed Muslim. The literary world has rallied to Rushdie's support and on Feb. 11, 160 international writers, inciuding Czechoslovakia's author President Vaclav Havel, called on world leaders to renew their efforts to end persecution of

Rushdie and his publishers. The effects of the affair have spread beyond Britain, where the Indian-born Rushdie has lived since the age of 13 and become the focus of what many Muslims see as confrontation with the West.

novel about the struggle between good and evil, a surrealistic journey of an Asian immigrant into an alien. Western environment, By daring to question what devout Muslims regard as the inviolate tenets of Islam, Rushdie

earned the death sentence. On sentence in the book has proved chillingly prophetic for Rushdie, when a character named after the author is told: "Your balsphemy Salman, can't

be forgiven." In an essay written from hiding last week, in which he called on "decent, fair-minded Muslims" to reconsider his book, Rushdie rejected the charge of blasphemy and noted that as a character in the books says, "where there is no belief, there is no blasphemy." But his conciliatory offer was

rejected by British Muslims. "We shall huff and puff until we bring the house down," said Kalim Siddiqui, head of the Muslim Institute in Britain. He said British Muslims would abide by the law but he refused to condemn the Iranian death order. The burning of Rushdie's book

ford in January last year marked the start of protests that spread across the Muslim world. The incident evoked memories of Nazi book burnings, and threatened race relations in Britain with a population of 900,000 Muslims, many of them Asians.

The book was banned in most

Muslim countries as well as in

by Muslims in the city of Brad-

Rushdie's native India, scene of some of the worst noting. At least 20 people were killed in riots in India and Pakistan. Dissenting Muslims learned to keep their views to themselves

after a Saudi Arabian clergyman was gunned down outside a Brussels mosque for rejecting Khomemi's death sentence. In Britain politicians were torn between their commitment to defend free speech and the desire to

win the Muslim vote. Rushdie, who has always votedfor the opposition Labour Party and referred to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in his book as Mrs. Torture," is critical of the Labour politicians who have taken a stand against him to appease Muslim constituents. He now thinks better of her Conservative government for saving

his life. Tehran broke ties with London on Feb. 28 after Britain withdrew its five diplomats in Tehran and expelled the Iranian charge d'affaires in protest at the death call. The break in relations, res-

tored only three months earlier.

dashed hopes for an early release

of four British hostages being

held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon. Their families have echoed Muslim calls to stop publication of a paperback edition. Publishers Viking Penguin, who have received 5,000 throatening letters and 25 bomb warnings, are debating whether to go ahead with the paperback.

which Rusdhie is insisting upon.

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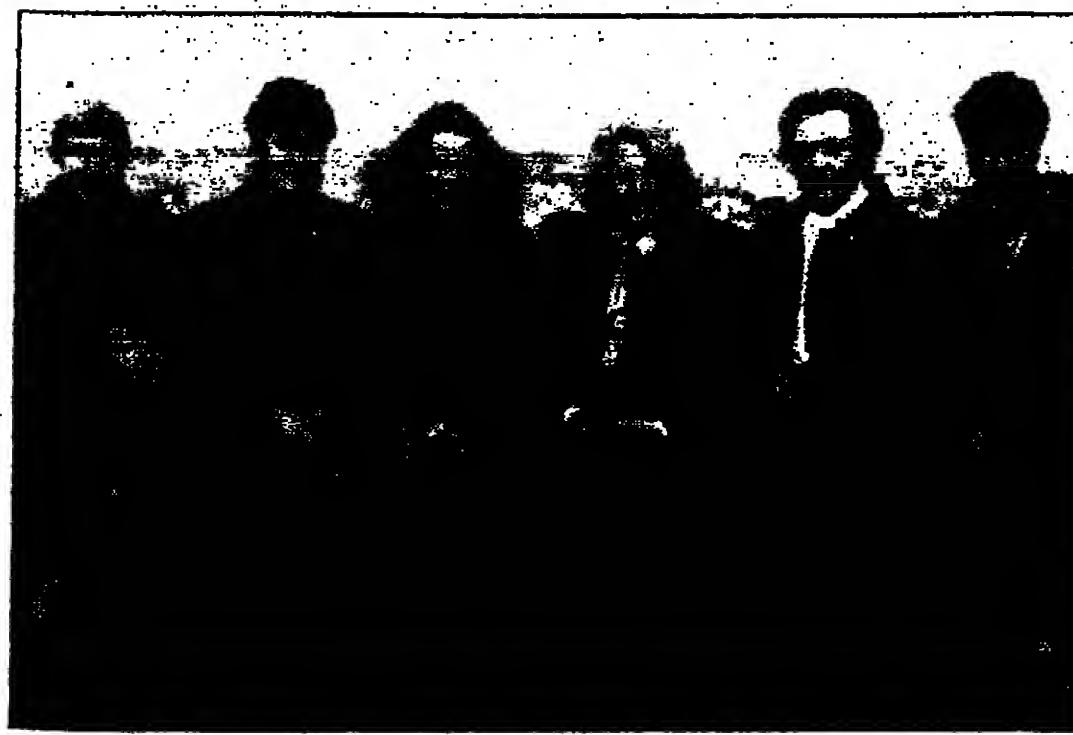
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otries and face a



veral days above te congress the From left to right: Inger Lies Gjorr, president of Norway's first chamber; Helene Mignon, French

Karla Peijs, Dutch MP; Huberte Hanquest, Belgian pennie; and Helen Beim, Denmark.

WIODE."

as it toured the occupied territor-

ics was the increasing number of

Isracli settlements built there.

Since occupying troops arrived in

1967, 52 per cent of the territory

has been expropriated by the

Israelis for military purposes, to

build settlements and roads.

Practically every hilltop in the

West Bank is crowned by a clus-

ter of white houses with red roofs

in a style totally alien to the local

architecture. In addition, Israel

reportedly plans to install in the

occupied territories a large num-

ber of the 700,000 Soviet Jews it

is trying to attract to the country.

is created, an additional difficulty

is set in the path of peace." Giory

said. The authorities are using

the settlements to make it more

difficult to reach a political solu-

tion. I get the impression the

Likud really plans to stay in the

The European parliaments are

also concerned by the economic

situation, in particular since the

EEC is trying to ensure that a

direct trade agreement signed

with Palestinian producers in

October 1988 is respected by the

Israeli authorities, which has not

always been the case. "Israel has

practised a policy of selective

opening of the occupied territor-

ies's trade channels in a manner

that ensures the greatest possible

benefit for Israeli economic in-

terests, with only coincidental re-

gard for Palestinian development

concerns," the U.N. report on

the Palestinian economy points

Karla Pelis, 45, from Holland.

noted: "The economic situation

have seen is shocking. The

Israelis make Palestinians pay

taxes but do not use any of that

money to build or improve infras-

trucutre. The economic oppres-

sion is terrifying: the Israelis can

cut off the water and electricity

supplies, they refuse to issue per-

mits for industrial construction.

With the financial restrictions.

Palestinians have no way of rais-

According to the U.N. report,

"the continued stagnation of

Palestinian industry might have

been avoided were it not for the

impact of Israeli policies... The

Israeli authorities have also ap-

ing capital."

European Parliament member

territories.

"Every time a new settlement

parliament; Montke Generatite, German MP; Palestinian issue: A time bomb that's ticking

By Phillippa Neave

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM --In Gaza, the water tastes salty and most of the land is parched Yet, about one third of the 362 square kilometres of the Gaza Strip is high and green. The green areas are surrounded by burbed wire and electronic security devices: that's where 18 Jewish settiements are home to a total of 2,200 people. Packed into the rest of the space in squalid refugee camps that have one of the highest population densities in the world are an estimated 800,000 Palestinians.

The deep wells bored by the Israeli settlers have caused the shallower Palestinian wells to dry up and have caused increasing salination. According to a recent United Nations study titled "The Palestinian Economy Under the Israeli Occupation," out of total annual supplies of 800 million cubic metres of water, Palestinians in the occupied territories (Gaza Strip plus the West Bank) are allowed to use only 110 million cubic metres, despite the rapid growth of the population. "Palestinians are not permitted to use their water resources for the development of their economy. the study notes, and increasing salination has impaired the quality of citrus fruits which were one of the main sources of livelihood.

Earning a living in Gaza is not easy. There is no industry to speak of and that is why close to 100,000 Palestinians work in Israel. Or rather, worked. Many of these people, who constitute a major source of cheap labour for Israel, have been on strike for the best part of two years, since the intifada or Palestinian uprising began. Others, who don't want or can't afford to observe the strike ig the Jordania? orders, are not necessarily free to work any way. A few months used that the see ago, the Israeli authorities introduced a controversial system to control Gazans: Anyone who ommunity of chie wants to leave the area most have olerance, the ma a magnetic L.D. card. It looks like and the known a credit card with the holder's lerent codes dist picture on it and enables the ot descend into authorities to monitor an individual's movements. It is similar to the system used for prisoners

in "ball-way houses" in some Western countries.

Obtaining the new card is difficult, partly because the individual must not feature on any of the authorities "black lists." With close to 40,000 arrests recorded since the beginning of the upris-ing, most Palestinian men find it difficult to keep off the dreaded lists --- sometimes being stopped for an I.D. check is enough to be bated as a security threat.

A delegation of Western European parliamentarians who recently toured Gaza and the West Bank were shocked to see that their Palestinian driver, although 2 U.N. employee, was required to show his magnetic card. The six-member delegation comprising women parliamentarians from

Israeli Parliament (Knesset) in the Labour Party told the delegation that it was "no use for Europe to keep on putting pressure on the Israeli government." At the same time, she acknowledged that "the right wing, the Likud Party, does not want negotiations, they won't give an inch. Although there are some signs of change within the Likud, she added, "especially the younger people around (Prime Minister Yitzbak) Shamir," she is sceptical that the hard-line Israeli prime minister would ever change his

According to Arad, the Labour Party which is the junior partner in the current government coalition, holds no real sway in the country's foreign policy. "For

"The economic situation I have seen is shocking. The Israelis make Palestinians pay taxes but do not use any of that money to build or improve infrastructure. The economic oppression is terrifying: the Israelis can cut off water and electricity supplies, they refuse to issue permits for industrial construction. With the financial restrictions, Palestinians have no way of raising capital."

France, Belgium, Norway, Deemark, Germany and Holland, was on a fact-finding, seven-day mission organised by the Brussels-based Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Coopera-

Most were visiting the area for the first time. After two nights in Gaza, the delegation toured the West Bank, visiting villages and refugee camps. They also met Palestinian as well as Israeli leaders.

One purpose of the visit was to consider what role Western Europe could play to help find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Nava Arad, a member of the

some of us, the only option if the peace process does not move forward will be to leave the government," she said. She identified herself as part of a group of 17 out of the 39 Labour Knesset members who are pushing for more dialogue with Palestinians.

Willing to discuss politics with her European counterparts, Arad refused to comment on the issue of human rights abuses by Israeli forces, detentions without trial military brutality and the growing problems of appalling living conditions in the Palestinian refugee

The delegation had plenty of opportunity to assess these condi-

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tions. Inger Lise Gjorv, president plied a range of measures which have acted to curb industrial deof Norway's First Chamber and a member of the Labour Party. velopment."

commented: "What I have soon is The all-female Parliamentary Association delegation also met a too bad; from a human point of view, it cannot be defended. Peogroup of Palestinian and Israeli women who are working together ple in Gaza and the West Bank live in conditions that are not for peace. The seven women involved - four Palestinians and bearable for me. I understand the Israeli problem, but I think they three Israelis -- stressed the imare over-doing it." Added the portant role women may have in 51-year-old politician who has the peace process. Naomi Khabeen in parliament since 1977; "I 288. 2 well-known activist and am very pessimistic. I see no real professor at the Hebrew Uniwish to find a solution on the versity in Jerusalem, explained: Israeli side. I don't know how the "The problem with the Israeli Israelis think they have time peace movement is its framgentawhen there is so much going tion and lack of strategy. We are trying to expand borizontally and reach influential women who are One of the problems brought closer to decision-making cento the attention of the delegation

> tres." Asked for her comments at the end of the visit, German MP Monika Ganseforth, 48, said: "I admire the Palestinians for resisting with such solidarity, realism and almost no violence. They have been using stones, flags and burning tyres for over two years, it is very contained but I don't know how long it can last."

"Something much be done quickly to change the life people in the occupied territories The human rights situation is so bad, we cannot wait for a political solution. If the peace process does not move forward, the hardliners on both the Palestinian and Israeli side will win, and in the end both sides will lose." she added.

Huberte Hanquet, 63, president of the Foreign Affairs Commission in the Belgian Senate. stressed: "It has become more urgent than ever to find a solution. Seen from inside the occupied territories, it does not look as though many Israelis are aware of the reality of the despicable conditions people live in. The situation is pressing and dangerous.

Although each of the delegates said they were committed to taking some form of action at national level back home, by spreading information and raising the issue at the highest level of foreign policy-making, each admitted that Europe can do little to further the peace process outside the framework of an international peace conference. "One gets the impression that Israel doesn't give a damn what Europe thinks or advises," French parliamentarian Helene Mignon, 56, com-

The delegates were unanimous in their views as to what the solution should be. Some were sceptical about its feasibility, but they agreed with Ganseforth's summing up: "The solution is very simple. There will have to be two states. The Palestinian and Israeli states will have to work together. They cannot live without each other." Concluded Hanquet: "Israel is a country that has always claimed to be democratic. It will have to accept a democratic solution" — World News



Gaza refusee camp survey the rules of a neighbour's house blown up by Israeli occupation forces as a form of reprised.

Canadian new cure for illiteracy

By Antony Parry Reuter

TORONTO - Salvation is at hand for the struggling illiterates of the world. Baffled by grammar and befoddled by spelling, they can learn "Canadian."

Toronto schoolteacher Ted Culp argues that English just isn't good enough. Its grammar is too illogical and its spelling maddeningly bizante.

So he's invented a new improved version, which may look rigid and peculiar, he admits, but has the benefits of simplicity and consistency. "Canadian," a language so far

enthusiasts in Toronto, will sweep the world, making it child's play to learn to read and write. Cuip says.

He is determined to succeed

known and loved by only a few

where George Bernard Shaw and Lazarus Zamenhof, inventor of the international language Esperanto, both failed.

"We must muve kwikli tu adopt the nu langwage, and not tu prolong the linggwistic agoni." he writes in the newsletter of the 'Internazional Union for the Canadian Langwaje."

The most important step is spelling, according to Culp. Out goes the illogical letter q you write kwik (quick) and kwiet (quiet). All silent letters are also out, if you don't say them, don't

spell with them. Then there's the grammar. Out go all differences in verb conjugations. Combine the future tense and the verb of necessity and it looks like this: "Thay wil

must tu 20." Very strange at first, but very easy once you get the hang of it, Culp says.

"Everybody recognises there is a problem," the tall, bespectacled academic said. "I know the way. I consider myself to be a prophet. "English is the world interna-

tional language but it won't hold its position in the cybernetic age. French and German didn't hold their position. I am suggesting 'Canadian' will replace English. But what about the joys Shakespeare and the wealth of other literature lost to those who

sbandon English? The sacrifice is worth it; Culp

Lost literature is a small price to pay for the new language which will solve the problems of slow learners and help scientists whose language skills are poor because languages are so irrational, he says.

Culp, last seen carrying teach-yourself-Bengali textbook in his large and crammed briefcase, has learnt from the language mistakes of reformers who went before him.

Shaw, the Irish dramatist and critic, failed because he wanted to introduce a completely new alphabet, which was too large a leap for the common man.

Esperanto, the simple language invented by Zamenhof, a Polish oculist, blossomed at first but has wilted because no one uses it in everyday life.

"Canadian" has no such problems, Culp says. It uses the English alphabet and "Canadians (already) speak 'canadian." Culp's endeavours are not just

for the benefit of English speakers, however. He has also invented a simple form of French - Toronto french, or le Fransais-Torontois.

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What is democracy?

EACH nation has its own definition of democracy. The Greeks, who invented the word simply defined it as "the people's rule." Americans say democracy is the rule of the people, for the people, by the people.

Cynics say democracy is the rule by everybody, mesning nobody. Satirists describe democracy as the bludgeoning of the people, for the people, by the people.

I was wondering what our definition of democracy is, assuming that democracy describes what we have achieved today. I am sure if we asked the Lower House of Parliament Speaker about his definition, he would say that democracy is allowing all deputies to speak their minds as long as they have something worth saying. He has demonstrated his absolute conviction of this definition by asking deputies to stop talking while he interrupted them.

If we asked the Prime Minister about his definition of democracy he would probably say that democracy is letting everybody speak their minds at all times, without any inhibitions, as long as that will not change anything on the ground, provided the executive branch approves of it or it gets an overwhelming majority in the house.

If you ask me - not that you have any choice - I would say democracy is saying what I said above and getting it published, undoctored and without receiving a call from a stranger inviting me for a friendly chat over a cup of coffee. See you next Thursday — I hope.

Worrying about health can make a society sick

By Daniel Callahan

BRIARCLIFF MANOR, New York — Forget oat bran: forget even cholesterol. Chocolate sundaes are good for you and fatty steaks even better. Or maybe that was true last month, but not this month. This month the word is that the asbestos that has been removed from pipes and walls at a cost of millions might not be so hazardous after all. And what was thought wonderful, fluoridated water, may have spared people's teeth but exposed them

Just what the truth is here. I cannot pretend to know. What I do know is that Americans seem breathless to get the latest word. They act as if a failure to get the right information on oats, asbestos, or salt, will make the difference between life death. Perhaps it will, but it is at least as certain that the passion for daily updates on such matters has itself become a kind of sick-

It is a sickness worth worrying about, and for three reasons. The first is the high cost of health care, a cost driven in part by intense patient demand for the highest quality care and the meeting of each and every health care need. When that demand is married to high-tech medicine, powerful engine for driving up costs is set in motion. Americans have come to expect their lives to. be saved, young and old, whatever the costs.

the growing aversion to any and all human risks. While the malpractice crisis in medicine is often blamed on greedy lawyers or bungling doctors, a most important but overlooked factor is that iuries have become ever more sympathetic to claims of harm and injury. This reflects a belief that if anything goes wrong, it must be someone's fault. And someone has to recompense the

The third cause for worry is that the obsession with illness and aversion to risk create a steady state of anxiety. If we look on the world as full of hazards to our health, constantly out to get us, there is no end to the defenses we

can try to erect — and no end to the way in which, sooner or later, those defenses must fail.

It is perfectly true that the hazards to health are multiple and there is something to the paranoia that nature is out to get us. But it is no less true that even if an American has only a moderate interest in good health, his or her chances of living to old age are extraordinarily high.

More subtle than anxiety is the way a constant worry about sickness can distort self-understanding. As Dr. Arthur Barsky has put it in his penetrating book, "worried sick: Our Troubled Quest for Wellness": "The more carefully we scrutinize ourselves for ailments, the more things we find wrong with us. The more we diet, the more frustrated we become with our flab. Though we live longer, we feel older sooner... The more we equate health with total well-being, the more pervasive iliness becomes."

Most middle-class Americans are in fine shape, perfectly able to work, to love and to play. Yet Americans continue to pour money into medical research and care as if the country were in the midst of a great plague. America probably already has a sufficiently high level of general health for most purposes. If, through national health insurance, the poor could be taken care of. Americans would then have more than enough.

Since we all know people who are sick and dying, how can I say such a thing? I say it because The second reason for worry is illness, decline and death are part of the human experience, an integral part of our very biology. No matter how much medical progress we make, there will always be people who are ill and dying — later rather than soconer, one hopes, but always inevitably. The task of keeping people alive, of curing their ills, is endless and infinite. Whatever we do, there will always be more to be done, and then more still.

We Americans need to come to grips with this reality. The failure to confront it helps to explain why we remain dissatisfied in the face of great progress, why we can feel at risk despite good health... The Los Angeles Times.

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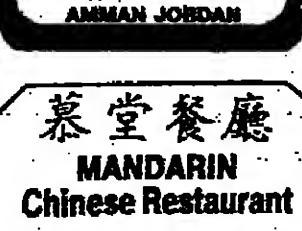
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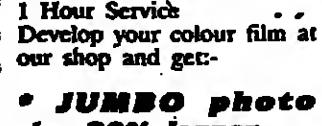
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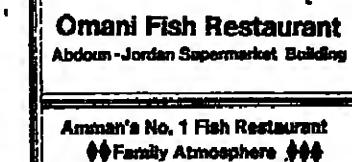
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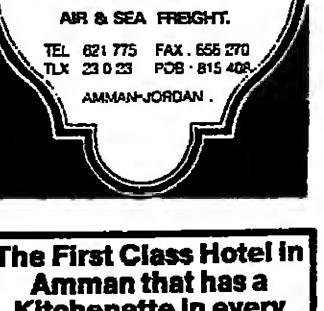
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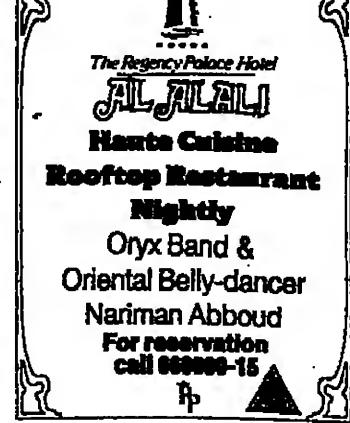
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GCC discusses unifying tariffs, petrol products

NICOSIA (R) — Finance ministers from the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Wednesday began a meeting in Saudi Arabia to discuss how to set up uniform customs tariffs. the Saudi Press Agency reported.

Unifying import tariffs would strengthen the GCC position in talks with the 12-member European Community (EC) to reduce a huge trade deficit in favour of EC, Gulf officials have said.

The agency, received in Cyprus, quoted Omani deputy premier for economic and financial affairs, Qais Al Zawawi, as urging the Gulf Arab states to move further towards economic

integration. The GCC meeting of ministers from Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates comes less than one week before a four-day conference in Granada, Spain, grouping some 450 industrialists from both groups.

GCC assistant secretary-general for economic affairs, Abdullah Al Ouweiz, has said the GCC-EC talks, scheduled to start Feb. 19, will discuss oil and gas industry, petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, finance and banking.

At their last summit meeting in Oman in December, GCC leaders set a three-year timetable to unify the tariffs that currently range between four per cent for countries like the UAE and about 20 per cent imposed by Oman.

But they set no figures. The group has repeatedly urged the EC, its main trading partner, to lift duties on its relatively cheaper petrochemical products to help reduce a trade deficit which reached \$4.5 billion

Meanwhile, Gulf oil states have started to build up output capacity to meet growing world demand but face large costs in doing so, oil industry analysts

While the rich producers like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates, might pay cash on the table for their expansion schemes, smaller oil states and war-damaged Iran and Iraq will need foreign help, the analysts said.

"The big Gulf states have decided to pay upfront the cost of raising output, as only they have the reserves to meet the projected demand in the next 10 years," a Gulf-based oil industry analyst said.

Despite a \$2.5 per barrel increase in earnings and an extra two million barrels per day (b/d) production last year, oil revenues alone will not be enough to pay for the expansion schemes, the analyst said.

Gulf states own two-thirds of the world's known oil reserves. As output in most other parts of the world declines, the Gulf is expected to grab more market share by the year 2000.

But a drop in demand in the 1980s mothballed much Gulf oil capacity. A great part of it rusted up and became useless.

Analysts estimate Saudi Arabia alone would have to spend between \$15 and \$30 billion to raise its capacity to 10 million b/d, what it was in 1980, from 6.5

Iraq and Iran have already seen the problems inherent in trying to keep up with the nicher Gulf

producers if they continue to insist on self-reliance. Both have started touting for foreign help.

- Iraq last week said foreign oil companies were welcome to develop its oilfields in exchange for long-term crude supplies. Iran in its five-year plan has set

\$27 billion aside against foreign loans which are yet to be secured for its industrial development. Iranian economists say the bulk of this will go to develop the energy sector.

If all the schemes to expand capacity go as planned, Gulf heavyweight producers Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will add six to seven million b/d extra capacity by mid-1990s onto around 17 million b/d

But all projects may not go as planned due to cash problems and uncertainty in demand, analysts said.

The International Energy agency, the Western world's energy watchdog, sees demand for Middle East oil at around 27-28 million b/d by the year

The cost of adding six million barrels per day (b/d) by the late 1990s to OPEC's current estimated 24 million b/d capacity will be up to \$60 billion, the 13-nation .group's secretary general Subroto has predicted.

On that basis, each extra barrel of oil capacity would cost

And even Sandi Arabia, with the world's lowest production costs, would need at least 18 months' worth of production at current prices just to recoup the capital investment.

World Bank launches

LONDON (R) — The World Bank launched a \$1.5 billion global bond Wednesday to raise more funds to channel to the

World Bank had chosen to raise funds in this way. In October last year it issued another \$1.5 billion of global bonds, the first of their

U.S. dollar

Pound Sterling

Deutschemark

Traditional bond issues are different settlement systems

352.7

107.7 108.8

porations, countries and international organisations to raise money and are sold to investors because they pay interest.

The World Bank, which has long been regarded as the main big borrower in the world's financial markets, developed the global bond concept itself.

When the first issue was launched it said the bond combined "for the first ime in a single. globally distributed issue, existing features of the U.S. domestic and the Eurodollar markets that investors and dealers find appealing."

"They are designed to facilitate worldwide - not just regional placement of these... issues and active trading in each time zone,"

it added. "You can't get a safer borrower than the World Bank, it's backed by all the central banks of the major countries in the world," Robin Baldwin, director of international bond research at London brokers UBS-Phillips and Drew, said.

'East European economies to join West'

CANBERRA (R) — The Soviet Union will embark on a range of reforms in the next five years, including the economic integration of Eastern Europe with the West, to try to solve its crippling economic problems, Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov said Wednesday.

"It is a difficult time for us because we are changing from one social order in our country to another. It is a difficult period, a painful period," Ryzhkov told

"We have come to a point that we have to implement fully reforms we have outlined in the past," he said.

But the integration of the Soviet Union into the world economy remains a long way off with the convertibility of the rouble, the linchpin to Moscow's acceptance by world markets, still an impossibility, he said during a trip to Canberra.

fell on junk bonds, filed for pro-

tection from creditors Tuesday in

the biggest bankruptcy ever on

nham Lambert Group Inc filed

for reorganisation under chapter

11 of the federal bankruptcy code

in the Southern District Court of

In a statement earlier Triesday,

Drexel Burnham Lambert Group

Inc said its board had voted to

make the filing, which will hold

off creditors while a federal judge

Drexel said its New York-

based brokerage firm, which on

Tuesday defaulted on about \$100 million short-term loans, would

But a source at the firm said it

plans to sell the brokerage unit

and another subsidiary that deals

"It looks like it's over for us,"

said one of the brokerage firm's

In the statement, the company

said it has liabilities of more than

\$3.0 billion and assets of \$3.6

Drexel has long lived by junk

bonds, the high-risk, high-yield

securities that fuelled the high-

flying takeover craze of the

1980s. In recent months the value

of junk bonds has plummetted as

companies which issued them

have had trouble servicing their

In addition to owning a large

portfolio of the bonds, Drexel

built most operations around

them, giving it a reputation as a

Wall Street powerhouse with a

legendary ability to raise money

for clients by selling junk bonds.

hurt badly by the massive inves-

tigation into illegal insider trading

on Wall Street.

But Drexel's reputation was

not be included in the filing.

in government bonds.

5,300 employees.

billion.

oversees its reorganisation.

A spokesman said Drexel Bur-

Wall Street.

New York.

"We are hoping the rouble will be convertible in the future... but we don't know when," Ryzhkov told the Australia-USSR Business Council earlier.

Ryzhkov, the highest ranking Soviet official to visit Australia. said he hoped by 1995 the Soviet Union would be ready to join the world economy, but full integration may take between 10 and 15

Prime ministers from the communist trade bloc Comecon decided at a meeting in Sophia earlier this year to convert their currencies and introduce world market prices by 1991. "These are some of the mea-

sures we are taking to integrate into the world economy," Ryzhkov said There was no incentive for

firms to trade with Comecon countries because they are paid in roubles and they can't buy any-

Total integration of Comecon countries would probably take

three or more years, he added. Ryzhkov ruled out similar reforms for the Soviet Union, saying if introduced they would force the closure of industries.

"We can't compete in the world economy. To put our chemical industry on world prices we would have to either close down our whole chemical industry and have nothing at all - and that is of course not possible or realistic - or provide government sub-

sidies," he said. But Ryzhkov acknowledged the Soviet Union needed to move closer to world markets and said it would introduce price reforms later this year.

He said a "buying price" as close to world market prices as the Soviet Union could afford would be established for Soviet

"When we have a buying price we will be able to deal on world markets," he said.

Following up on a 1986 speech Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev made in the eastern city of Vladivostok which foreshadowed greater involvement in the Asia-Pacific region, Ryzhkov said Moscow would encourage the establishment of economic development zones in its Far East

"We are working at a greater opening up of Vladivostok,

Ryzhkov said. "The Soviet Far East is a large territory with a great potential for development. If there are businessmen with a vision they have to think of the Far East," he

But these zones would not be like economic development zones

"We do not like the Chinese model quite frankly and for that reason we are looking for other avenues so that these economic zones would not have to be a foreign body in our country." Ryzhkov said.

"We know we have to do this. but the question is how." Ryzhkov said Australian mvolvement in the Soviet Far East would be welcomed as his country's economic relationship with Japan remained stagnant because of a sovereignty dispute over the Kurile islands to the north of

The Soviet Union claimed the islands, which historically were governed by Japan, after World

Ryzhkov said he hoped current negotiations would prevail and lead to stronger ties with

Expert urges Africans to fight files for brain drain and capital flight bankruptcy

ARUSHA, Tanzania (R) — African governments must involve NEW YORK (R) — The parent company of Drexel Burnham their people more in running their countries to prevent the Lambert Inc, the U.S. brokerage continent losing its chief assets house whose fortunes rose and

brains and money. A top United Nations expert on African affairs said Wednesday the world's poorest continent was suffering a haemorrhage of skilled workers and capital because many states had failed to give citizens a say in their future.

"The process of alienation has become so acute and widespread that otherwise patriotic people have been left with no option than to transfer their patronage and capital abroad, although they risk being second-class or classless citizens in foreign countries," said Adebayo Adedeji, head of the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa.

"Capital flight and brain drain are two of the gravest dangers that we have to fight against most vigorously," he told Reuters in an interview.

Adedji was interviewed during a five-day U.N. conference designed to promote a more democratic approach to development. It was attended by some 400 delegates, including African officials and representatives from

trade unions and youth and women's groups. Adedeji said a lack of rights, such as freedom of speech, in many authoritarian states had demotivated people, leading to lower productivity and contributing to Africa's severe economic prob-

foreign donor nations, African

"We are never going to understand the current crisis, much less

to think of its as primarily an economic crisis," he said.

He said 70,000 highly qualified Africans from countries south of the Sahara were believed to have settled in the European Community alone.

But at least 80,000 foreign aid workers were employed in the public sector of the 40 sub-Saharan countries, imposing heavy ex-

tra costs on those governments. For example, a foreign expert from the industrialised nations' Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development. (OECD) earned \$200,000 a year. Adedeji estimated about \$2.5 billion of capital had left Africa in 1989 and the same amount the year before.

While the sum was not enormous, it was a significant drain on

contain it, as long as we continue a continent which already sank the equivalent of 85 per cent of its gross domestic product into repaying interest on its \$250 billion foreign debt.

It also contributed to Africa's unenviable role as an exporter of capital. Last year the continent channelled abroad in debt repayments and other transfers about \$5.5 billion more than it received

from overseas. Referring to the sweeping changes in Eastern Europe, Adedeji said: "One hopes that all of us will learn a lesson from it in Africa, and that governments will facilitate as rapidly as possible the evolution of an environment conducive to popular participation. Addressing some of these problems should start to dampen the flight of people and of capital."

\$1.5b 'global bond'

world's poorer nations.

It was the second time that the

What makes global bonds unique is that they can be bought and sold by bond dealer in Asia, Europe and the United States.

generally traded within just one of the regions because of the which operate throughout the

Bonds are used by major cor-

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES Wednesday, February 14, Central Bank official rates 115.7 116.9 456.5 461.1 Japanese yen (for 100).

Dutch guilder

Swedish crown

Italian lina (for 100)

U.S. dollars

Canadian dollar

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Dutch guilders

Belgian francs

Swiss francs

53.0 53.5 188.2 190.1 Swiss franc Belgian franc (for 10)

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LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

One Sterling 1.6923/33 1.2030/45 One U.S. dollar 1.6753/60 1.8880/90 1.4960/67 35.00/05 5.6975/7025 1244/1245 144.40/50 6.1000/400 6.4620/70 6.4670/720

One ounce of gold 415.70/416.20

French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — Heavy turnover in banking shares dominated trading in an otherwise featureless day. The All Ordinaries Index closed 8.5 points higher at 1,636.7, its high for the day.

TOKYO - Last-minute index-linked buying by foreign brokerages and investment trust funds pulled prices marginally firmer at the close. Sagging bond prices and pre-election worries kept most investors sidelined. The Nikkei Index rose 48.86 to 37,155.89. HONG KONG — Blue chips closed steady to firmer in a market tacking clear direction, with strong support emerging at the lows. The Hang Seng Index rose 6.88 to 2,870.43.

profit-taking after a recent bullish run. The Straits Times Industrial Index fell 11.18 to 1,564.70. BOMBAY -- Share prices held modest gains on a broad front at close after a strong early rally was quickly followed by profit-

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed lower for the second day on

taking. FRANKFURT - Shares fell gently in thin trade after a dearth of follow-up orders short-circuited the market's initially positive

mood. The DAX was off 8.75 at 1,832.23. ZURICH - Shares edged lower after a firmer opening. Early buying leveled off on lack of follow-through orders. The SPI Index closed 2.1 points lower at 1,116.3.

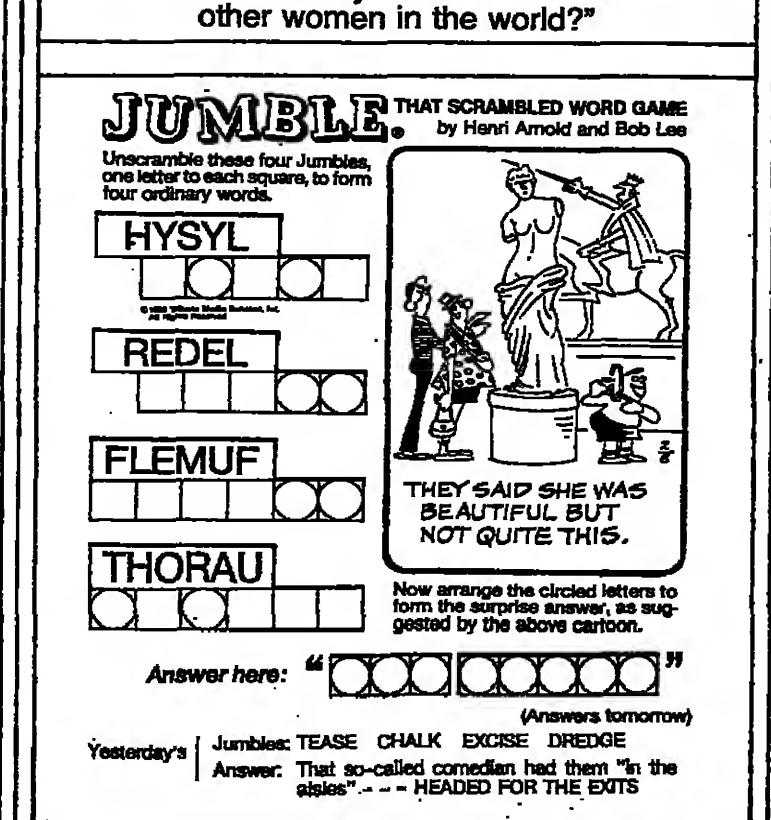
PARIS - French share prices ended slightly up but deales remained sceptical on the market's outlook. The CAC-40 index ended 8.56 points up at 1,853.00.

LONDON - Shares were stable below session highs, but lacked a

trend towards the end of a dull day. By 1616 GMT the FTSE was

up 5.4 points at 2,298.6.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris HARRIS 1-18 © 1980 by Comies Syndicate, Inc. "I like being married to you, but is it really fair to all the



ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

S. Yemen hit by wave of strikes

ADEN (R) — South Yemen has promised better pay and working conditions to try to end a wave of previously rare strikes, the official Aden News Agency said Wednesday. It said the government persuaded some 890 workers at the country's only textile mill to end their two-day stoppage after promising to consider their demands. But hours later 200 workers at a plant producing oxygen for welding said they would stop work to press for a pay rise. It was the fifth strike in less than a month. One union leader said more stoppages were expected, with workers seeking rises to compensate for an increase in the cost of living of around 30 per cent over the past five years. The average monthly pay of between 50 to 70 Yemeni dinars (\$150 to \$210) has remained unchanged during the same period, union leaders have complained. The news agency said employees at the ministry of housing, seeking better pay and housing conditions, were on strike for the third day. The agency's own staff stopped work last month to press for new premises after part of their building collapsed.

Finland to send meat to USSR

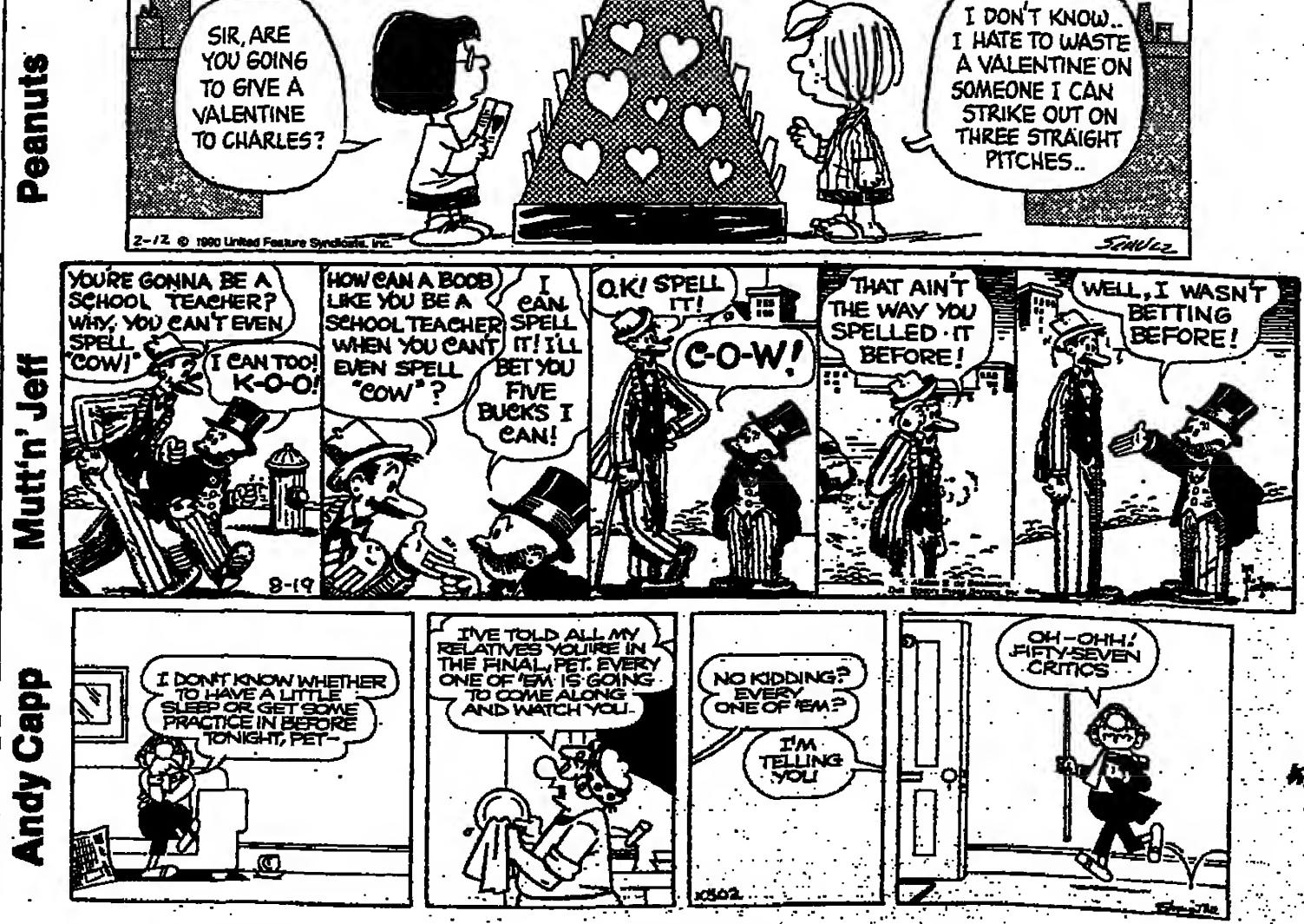
HELSINKI (AP) - Finland will send-more than 800 tons of meat products to Karelia, a Soviet republic on the Finnish border suffering an acute food shortage, national radio reported Tues-day. Visiting Karelian Prime Minister Sergei Blinnikov admitted food shortages were a problem, but denied reports that people were starving. "The shortages are mainly in the meat sector," he said in a radio interview. "I can give you my word that there is no sign of hunger... nor will there be." Finnish suppliers, including fish, egg and dairy producers, have signalled a willingness to supply a total of 800 tons of food in return for wood, wood products, granite and other raw materials. Border trade between Finland and the Soviet Union is traditionally carried out on a barter basis. Blinnikov headed a team of Soviet negotiators trying to import food to Karelia, a former Finnish territory ceded to the Soviet Union in 1944.

China to ease peasant burdens

BEIJING (AP) — China's government has issued a nationwide circular calling on local authorities to protect peasants from excessive taxes and compulsory labour, an official newspaper said Wednesday. The state council directive acknowledged that the "burdens of the peasant are becoming heavier day by day," the People's Daily reported. It said collective fees should be kept within five per cent of the previous year's per capita income, with slight increases allowed when economic conditions are good. The incomes of peasants in most areas of China have tripled in the past decade following the breakup of communes and the revival of family farming and free markets. However, local governments have arbitrarily come up with numerous fees for education, land use and welfare services that have claimed much of the increased income. The circular said these fees have "severely dampened the peasants' enthusiasm to develop production and harmed partymasses and cadre-masses relationships."

Malaysia to host G-15 meeting

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysian Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Othar has said that Knala Lumpur will host the first meeting of the Group of 15 (G-15) developing countries in June. Abu Hassan said in a statement the meeting would be attended by leaders of the 15 member countries - Algeria, Argentina, Brazil. Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe. The Group of 15 is the summit-level group for South-South cooperation formed at the Non-Aligned Movement summit in Belgrade last year. "The group is intended to be a forum for regular consultation on key issues facing developing countries and to promote effective South-South consultation and cooperation as well as North-South relations," Abu Hassan said. Abu Hassan said the agenda for the inaugural meeting would be fixed later, but Malaysian foreign ministry officials said Third World debt and trade are expected to be the main issues.



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HOROSCOPE

PORECAST FOR THURSDAY 15, 1990

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19).
You can make plant for a mip with two friends. Get your home orgabecomes her come a me complet basis, Home is where the heart is for you today...

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A good friend will bein you with a very big problem. Use some of your agent to do some improvements on your residence for

GENERAL (May 21 to June 21) Charm your family now by giving them some thoughtful presents. A woman will aid you in putting your points across with your loved one. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Dou't let some problem keep you from seeing and enjoying a friend you like. Rely more on a

woman at home to handle things that you need to have done, LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Conpliment your friends today for may criticism given could espec problems. You and your attachment should be spore open to seeing

more individuals.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) If you have been pleasing a home addition, start it now. A family member will now get along very well with your attachment.

PORECAST FOR

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A couple from a distance will have excellent advice for your future. Be cantious about your remactic expressions today toward loved

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Make peace with a friend with whom you have had some friction. Rendering something special to your attachment brings much nappunca.

GEMONI: (May 21 to June 21) Be off with close friends to see interesting companions nearby. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Do invite an interesting group into your home at this time. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Discussing practical matters with friends can be very beinful now, Be

off and about to interesting activities with your attachment. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Don't judge a friend harshiy for you do not have all the facts. Restlessness at home requires that you and your family get out of the

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation 1.188A: (September 23 to October 22) A highly influential person can now become a very good friend. Discres whatever vacation plans

you have with your ettachment. SCORPED: (October 23 to November 21) Accept the invitations of a yourger friend for an enjoyable time out. Your attachment will give a broad hipt on how you can best picaes biseless.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to Deterober 21) You good to be very selective in which friends you see at this time. Add beauty and colther at your residence for more

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your musual business ideas can be just great for you now. Little courteses will now most expects your attachment.

ACCUARTUS: (Jamesty 21 to February 19) Many friends will now vic to extertain you with lavish attention. Invite anyone in your home who is able to aid you in business

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A non-combative and gentle attitude is suggested at home now. There will be much vitakity in your emotional relationship now.

FRIDAY 16, 1998

LIMBA: (September 23 to October 22) Do nothing now that would cause business persons to think you are chesp. Not the day to economise on expenditures at bome.

SCORPSO: (October 23 to November 21) Going douch treat with your friends now would keep worthwhile friendshins intact. Take your attachment an article of beauty or colour. "

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Now would be a good time to join an organisation with friends you like. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to

January 20) A time when you need to keep you temper under control when with your friends. Get all possible business data that you require from experts.

AQUARRIS: (January 21 to February 19) A very good day for you to invite and entertain charmers in YOUT home.

PESCES: (February 20 to March 20) Try to see your duties from a broader more comprehensive view point.

Samaranch arrives in Amman

years ago.

AMMAN (Prira) -- Internafional Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Sameranck and Asian Olympic council President Shelich Fahri At Ahmed At Sabak Wedneday arrived in Amman on a threeday official visit on an invitation from Minister of Youth and President of the Jordanian Olympic Committee (JOC)

Ibrahim Al Ghabababah. Samaranch told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that he will discuss with Jordanian officlais ways to promote and bolster cooperation between IOC

and JOC. Samaranch expressed his hope that his visit to Jordan

will benefit the sports movement in the Kingdom, His visit as IOC president is the first since the international committee was founded more than 100

Sheikh Fahd said that Samuranch's visit to Jordan shows that the Arab sports movements is taking its real status among the countries of the world.

Samaranch and Sheikh Fahd were received at the airport by Chief Chamberlain Prince Rand Ibn Zeid, Ghababshek, the Ministry of Youth's secretary general Asem Ghoshek and JOC secretary general Abduilah Abu Nwar.

Virginia Slims:

Navratilova beats Temesvari

she overpowered Hungary's Andrea Temesvari, 6-1, 6-3, in first-round action at the Virginia Slims of Chicago.

But Linda Harvey-Wild, a pro for only a week, got her "biggest victory ever" as she upset French Open champion Arantra Sanchez 6-3, 7-6 (7-5), earlier Tuesday. In a mild upset, the sixth seed, Natalia Zvereva, of the Soviet Union, fell to the world's 49th

best player, Kathy Rinaldi, 7-5, 3-6, 6-1, in the day's final match. Rinaldi fell behind 5-3 in the opening set, but rallied to win the next four games and the set. Her first serves and combination of passing shots and overhead volleys proved to be

Zvereva's undoing Navratilova, ranked number two in the world behind Steffi Graf and the Chicago tournament's top seed, was able to exploit mistakes made by Temesvari, ranked 44th, in the 59-

minute match. Temesvari stuck close to the baseline, but by weakly returnign corner shots, she set up Navrati-

Hinds prince

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27 Ellipse

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36 Nosegay 36 Fashion

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25 Travel need

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11 Beauty shop

12 Recer Bobby

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41 Fill with joy

THE Daily Crossword by Hank Harrington

CHICAGO (AP) — Martina lova blasts that were out of reach. Navratilova did as expected as "It was a good first round test for me," said Navratilova. "I had to be sharp for those matches. Navratilova is seeking her eighth Virginia Slims of Chicago

> In the biggest upset of the first round, harvey-wield, 18, took a 6-1 lead in the tiebreaker before losing the next four points. But Sanchez, the world's fifth-ranked player, then double-faulted on match point.

"Sure, it was my biggest victory ever, and I don't think it's sunk in said Harvey-wild, ranked 154th in the world. Sanchez admitted she played

"I need a lot of work on my service," she said.

Yesterday's Pezzle Solved:

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Earlier, seventh-seeded Lanra

Gildemeister of Peru best But Flink is a person who has Gretchen Magers 6-1, 6-7 (4-7, achieved the extraordinary. With 6-4); Tami Whitlinger beat Hu a 28-0 record this season, he Na 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 in a battle of hopes to become Stratford high qualifiers; Susan Sloane defeated school's state wrestling cham-Linda Ferrando of Italy 6-4, 6-1; and Nathalie Tauziat of France Before wrestling, Flink redowned Isabel Cueto of West moves his artificial limb and then Germany 6-4, 6-1. keeps on his knees, never standing to give opponents a chance to

WORLD CUP SWIMMING:

Australians dominate events

GOTEBORG, Sweden (AP) --Australia, led by Glen Houseman, won four events to dominate the first day's events at the Swedish open-world cup swim

meet Tuesday. Housman finished strongly to win the 1,500-metre freestyle in 15 minutes, 26.48 seconds, beating Canadian runnerup Paul De-

shaies by more than five seconds. Housman, a 17-year-old Queenslander, swam the fastest 1,500 ever during a qualifying heat in the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand recently. But his time of 14:53.49, just under Soviet Vladimir Salnikov's world record, was not recognised because of technical problems

Other Australian male winners were Robert Bruce, who captured the 200 medley in 2:06.12 just ahead of Canada's Jon Kelly, and Andrew Baildon, who won the 50 tree in 22.82.

during the race.

Johanna Griggs picked up the remaining victory for Australia taking the women's 100-metre backstroke in 1:05.32.

Few American swimmers were

STRATFORD, Wisconsin (AP)

- A youth who lost a leg in a

farming accident five years ago

and has gone on to become an

accomplished wrestler bristles at

"I don't even like the word

handicapped," said Bill Flink. "It

is labelling a person. Everyone is

the same. A person is a person."

take advantage of his instability.

being called handicapped.

Wrestler who lost leg in

accident remains undefeated

mature.

Tackes.

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kitchen, central heating and telephone.

in action Tuesday and Tracey McFarlane was the only U.S. winner, clocking 1:12.24 in the

100-metre breaststroke. Canada scored a 1-2 finish in the women's 400 free. Stephanie Shewchuk edged Erin Holand for the victory in 4:22.07. Holland

was timed in 4:23.26. Mark Tewksbury won the men's 50-metre backstroke in 26.36 for the only other Canadian triumph.

Sweden's Anders Holmertz, the world's bottest swimmer in recent weeks, turned in a 1:49.65 in winning the men's 200 free. Soviet Veniamin Tayanovich was second, one second behind.

Earlier this month, Holmertz set a world best in the 400 free in a 25-metre pool in Paris.

In another race Tuesday Evgeny Kotriaga of the Soviet Union missed the European record in the 50-metre butterfly by 19 hundreds of a second as he recorded a time of 24.80.

The meet continues in the 50metre Valhalla Pool Wednesday, Swimmers from more than 20 nations are competing.

He said he's quicker and stronger

than many other 103-pounders

(47 kilogrammes) who generally

are younger and less physically

to a different style of wrestling

because they reach around to

grab his leg and it "just isn't

there," said Flink's coach, Cal

marveling at how good he is and

how far he has come," Tackes

said. "It is amazing the agility he

has with only one leg... He is

going through life accepting these

challenges instead of running

away from them. That says a lot

about his personality."

He forces opponents to adjust

Douglas-Tyson II comes close to clearing hurdle

NEW YORK (AP) - Now, the boxing world agrees: Buster Douglas is heavyweight cham-

His first challenger may be

Mike Tyson. Douglas-Tyson II came close to clearing the final hardle Tuesday when Evander Holyfield's manager, Ken Sanders, said in Atlanta that his boxer probably would step aside to allow the rematch.

Bilonaire developer Donaid Trump says Douglas-Tyson II will be June 18 in Atlantic City. although Douglas has not signed a contract.

In fact, Douglas only learned hours earlier that he was undisputed champion when the World Boxing Association being the last of the sport's three major governing bodies to recognise his 10th-round knockout of Tyson

Sunday in Tokyo. "We don't have a rematch now," Don King, Tyson's promoter and adviser, said Toesday at a news conference. "We're trying to get one. The first thing we have to do is get a rematch. As you know, the catching comes

béfore the banging." King said he was negotiating with representatives of Douglas and Holyfield to work out an

agreement. Tyson, who appeared with King at the news conference, said his loss was "a temporary, minor setback. I don't take it to heart. I'll be the champion again. I'm still one of the best fighters in the world and when the rematch

comes I'll prove it." Holyfield, as the number-one ranked contender, was the mandatory challenger to Douglas first defense. But he has decided to wait until after Tyson-Douglas

"Sometimes you catch yourself "We've been approached to make a deal, by Don King, to step aside and make way for the rematch," Sanders said. "We're waiting for the contract from him.

If it's what they said it would be,

we probably would do it." Sanders said Holyfield would

fight on the undercard, then fight the Tyson-Douglas winner in September or October. In his hometown of Columbus,

Ohio, Douglas said the main thing for him "is that I am now looked upon as the heavyweight champion of the world. It was a lifelong dream come true, and I thank God for that."

The International Boxing Federation recognised Douglas as champion immediately, and the World Boxing Council extended recognition Monday night after King, who promots Tyson, dropped a protest of the result.

Douglas said while he's not opposed to fighting Tyson again, he hadn't signed anything yet. "I was upset about the fact that I wasn't looked upon as the total,

undisputed heavyweight champion, and now it seems like that's been cleared up," Douglas siad. King started the controversy

over Douglas' knockout by protesting that referee Octavio Meyran counted too long over Douglas when he was knocked down in the eighth round. Douglas got up and knocked out Tyson two rounds later.

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Q.1-As South, vulnerable, you ∵Q65 € Q962 **+**372 Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take? A .- It there is a worse eight-point hand around, we haven't seen it! Even if partner has a maximum 18, we doubt whether he'll be able to

more than one entry. Pass. **4Q73 €9872 €J8652 45**

and on a lucky day it will be better

ng would be in Q.3-As South, valnerable, you +K5 7A103 +AQ9842 +K8

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

come to nine tricks coposite this

collection, which might not furnish Q.2-As South, vulnerable, you

Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take? A.—At no trump, your hand might not take even a single trick. It will surely play better in a suit contract, where you can at least pick up a couple of ruffs. Bid two clubs, asking for a major suit, and pass whatever partner responds. At the very worst, you'll have a seven-card fit.

than that.

What is your opening bid? A .- Suppose you were to open one diamond and partner were to respond one spade; what would you do then? There is no satisfactory action. Simply pretend that your low diamond is a low club and get the hand off your chest with a de-

GOREN BRIDGE

Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

Q.5-Neither vulnerable, as South 4 A37632

South West North East 1 NT Pass What do you bid now? A.—The way most experts treat this sequence, you would rebid two spades with a six-card suit and a

monds, you should, therefore, rebid two diamonds.

The bidding has proceeded: South West North East Pass 1 NT Pass What action do you take?

A.—Unlike a minor, you should not scriptive bid of one no trump. suppress a four-card major-especially a very good one. Therefore, rebid two hearts regardless of the strength of your hand. 4 Q106 7J752 0K10 4K984

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANKAH HIRSCH

A.-With nine points and a suffing value, you are worth a move. But don't invite game by bidding two no trump. Look for a 4-4 heart fit by bidding two clubs. If partner should respond two hearts, your hand revalues to 11 points and becomes worth a jump to game. If he bids anything else, be content with two

73 CKQ43 +A7 The bidding has proceeded:

minimum, but show a four-card minor if the hand is better-than-minimum. Since you would open this hand even without the king of dia-

Q.6-Neither vulnerable, as South 4876432 PAK103 \$A74 ♦Void

Q.4-As South, valuerable, you

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> LICENCE TO KILL

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Michel Kiton

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cincma Tel: 675571

PLAZA

ing area and a watchman.

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

COCKTAIL

Tel: 674111

PHILADELPHIA

TUTOR



Cinema NUOUM

star of Batman in BEETLE JUICE

Tel: 677420 Cinema

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Tel: 634144

8 more killed in Tajikistan as Soviet troops clash with rioters

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet troops opened fire without warning in the riot-torn capital of Tajikistan Wednesday, killing at least eight people, local residents said.

"Representatives of informal groups say they were shooting people without warning and at least eight are dead," a freelance journalist, Alexei Shiryakin, said by telephone from Dushanbe.

A spokesman for the Tajikistan Interior Ministry said he could not confirm the reports but said soldiers had no orders to use their weapons "except in extreme situations."

"If the soldiers are using their weapons they are only firing them into the air. They also have blanks," he said.

In Moscow, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, struggling to restore the Communist Party's morale and facing a series of eruptions ethnic violence in the Central Asian and other Soviet republics, called for a crackdown on the rioters.

Although the incidents were officially but down to ethnic tension and rumours of an influx of Armenian refugees into Tajikistan, which has a Sunni Muslim tradition, they came after revolts against party leaders across the

In the past few weeks, top Communist officials in many big centres of European and Siberian Russia and the Ukraine have been forced to stepdown under popular pressure on charges of abusing their position or of simple incompetence.

Soviet television reported 37 people dead and 80 injured in the Tajikistan disorders. Authorities ordered a state of emergency and brought troops into Dushanbe

Gorbachev told a televised session of parliament that new laws were needed to deal with the clashes: "We must use all the force of the law against those people who under the banner of national rebirth drag the people into a fight for their own aims,"

Dushanbe Radio announced Wednesday morning troops would be moving through the city in military vehicles and asked the populace to clear the streets

"to avoid tragedy."

The rioting continued to spread, with gangs of youths defying troops, tanks, and a curfew to wreck shops and overturn buses and cars. Soviet newspapers said non-Tajiks, especially Russians, were attacked and

Taiikistan's Communist Party Chief Kakhar Makhkamov offered his resignation Tuesday as attacks on non-Tajiks, including Russians, continued, the newspaper Komsomolskaya

Pravda said. Demonstrators massed in front of the Communist Party's Central Committee in Dushanbe Tuesday and elected a temporary committee to run the republic, the newspaper added.

Moscow radio said the violence, which erupted Monday in the republic's capital, had spread to more than 200 areas in the city and its suburbs.

"The situation in the city is out of control. The number of hooligan elements is getting larger every hour," Soviet Television reported late Tuesday.

religious freedom and more political independence and want Farsi to become the official language Gorbachev, speaking to the of Tajikistan," said Tehran opening of the third session of the revamped Soviet parliament, cal-Radio, monitored in Cyprus.

led for a crackdown on nationalist

disorders which he said had

spread from Baku, capital of the

Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, to

disorders was being introduced

the law against those people who

under the banner of national re-

birth drag the people into a fight

for their own aims," the Soviet

Tehran warns Moscow

cow Wednesday not to use vio-

lence to quash unrest among Ta-

files it said were clamouring to

"The Tajiks demand greater

U.S. aid

cutoff helps

peace, says

Salvadorean

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A

cutoff in U.S. aid to President

Alfredo Cristiani's rightist gov-

ernment would create the condi-

tions for a rapid negotiated settle-

ment of El Salvador's 10-year-old

civil war, a top guerrilla comman-

debate in the United States about

military aid," Ferman Cien-

fuegos, a member of the Fara-

bundo Marti National Liberation

Front's (FMLN) five-man high

Congress must soon decide

whether to renew U.S. military

aid to El Salvador. The United

States provided \$378 million in

aid to El Salvador last year.

including \$80 million in military

Renewing aid would "compli-

cate the situation and he a sten

Cienfuegos said U.S. pressure

on Cristiani to halt human rights

abuses allegedly carried out by

the armed forces was one reason

the rebels believed peace talks

were possible in the near future.

The rebel commander credited

last November's guerrilla offen-

sive in El Salvador with bringing

the issue to a head in the United

Before the offensive, the Salva-

doran Armed Forces "dreamed

they were winning the war. But

now nobody is saying the colonels

Cienfuegos said the armed

forces had been able to block

peace talks in the past but now

were undermined by their own

actions, including the bombard-

ment of civilians and the killings

of six Jesuit priests at Central

armed forces are very isolated,

that there are sectors (in the

armed forces) that will press for

democracy," Cienfuegos said in

an interview with reporters at the

"We have to think that the

won," said Cienfuegos.

American University.

FMLN's offices here.

States.

backwards," Cienfuegos said.

command, said Tuesday.

"We think there is now a great

der contends.

rebel chief

regain their Muslim identity.

Iran's state-run radio told Mos-

and urged its quick adoption.

He said a draft law on ethnic

"We must use all the force of

Dushanbe.

leader said.

91 die in Indian jet crash

NEW DELHI (AP) — An Indian Airlines jet crashed and burst into flames while landing at a southern Indian airport Wednesday, killing 91 people, authorities

said. Fifty-five people survived. The Airbus 320 crashed at 1 p.m. (0730 GMT) while on final approach to land at Bangalore airport, airline and airport offi-

"The crash occurred before the plane touched the runway and it caught fire as soon as it crashed," said P.S. Shetty, airport manager in Bombay, where the flight originated.

Airline officials said the plane, which was an hour behind schedule, carried 139 passengers and a crew of seven on the hourlong, 805-kilometre flight.

One airline official said several foreigners were believed to be on the flight to Bangalore, one of India's richest cities and the cen-

report would not be available for some time since the passengers' nationalities were not listed on the tickets.

A spokesman for the airline in New Delhi reported earlier that at least 135 people had died and only three survived in the crash.

But airport officials in Bombay and doctors at hospitals where the victims were taken said 55 people survived and were being treated for broken bones and severe burns.

"They're alive. That's all I can say," said one doctor at the Air Force Hospital where 27 survivors were taken. He declined to give his name.

what caused the crash of the jet, acquired by the nation's govern- inews reports criticised the airline ment-run domestic carrier about three months ago for \$38 million. Civil Aviation Minister Arif

Airline officials did not know

northern Vietnamese province of

Quang Ninh and the neighbour-

Ish Bhagat, assistant commis-

sioner for the Correctional Ser-

vices Department, said: "My staff

have been up all night, and

ing port city of Haiphong.

the government was expected to order an inquiry into the accident, the second worst in Indian Airlines' 27-year history.

New reports said the plane apparently undershot the runway by about 50 metres and crashed near the small village of Challaghatta. The Press Trust of India news agency said the plane hit a fence or an embankment near the village as it was descending to

Villagers rushed out of their huts and across the field, littered with baggage and debris, toward the flaming wreckage. Local police were called to try to keep

land on the runway.

After Indian Airlines announced it was adding 31 Airbus 320s to its aging fleet of Boeing, Fokker and Avro planes, for failing to adequately train pilots to fly the sophisticated aircraft and for failing to provide adequate hangar space to house and maintain the planes.

Ruins emerge from **Tiber River bottom**

French cooks

strike back at U.S.

CASTRES. France (R) -

French cuisine struck back at the

invading American hamburger

Tuesday, launching a gourmet

version of the beef-in-a-bun fast-

food that includes truffles and

goose-liver pate but snubs ketch-

up. the inventors, restauranteurs

Gerard and Christiane Sogno, say

they are ready to pass on the

recipe to those interested in help-

ing to create a truly French ham-

burger. The "Tarriette," named

for the Tarn region which is home

to liver pate, is made of ground:

duck meat, pate de foie gras,

minced mushrooms and a slice of

truffle, served with a sprinkling of

honey vinegar and French fries.

ROME (AP) — Columns and marble blocs for the construction of monuments in imperial Rome have been discovered by divers on the bottom of the Tiber River. Italian media has reported. Erosion uncovered the pieces buried underwater since the times of the Roman Empire, according to the reports by state TV and local newspapers. Some of the columns found near the suburb of Fiumara are as high as those at the Pantheon, a symbol of Rome's ancient glory. Several marble blocs are marked with the imperial seal. Archaeologists said they believe the columns and marbles were being sent from a deposit in an imperial port to the capital when a landslide along the Tiber buried them in the river bed. They suspect other pieces could be found near Francia. One column was raised from the river bottom and will be displayed in Ostia Antica. It hasn't yet been decided whether the other objects will be raised or

Imperial bride-to-be starts training

left underwater.

TOKYO (R) — Kiko Kawashima, the demure, middle-class fiancee of Prince Aya, second-inline to Japan's imperial throne, has begun her pre-nuptial lessons. at the imperial palace, the imperial Household Agency said. The princess-to-be will be taught for one month about the various' rituals performed in the palace, as well as Japan's history and constitution a spokesman said Kawashima, 23; a graduate student at Gakushuin University, is only the second commoner to enter the imperial family. Her future mother-in-law, the Empress Michiko, was the first to do so 31 years ago.

Czech beer-drinkers form party

PRAGUE (AP) — Beer-lovers in Pilsen, the famed Czech brewery town, have set up a political party aiming to reduce the price of theirfavourite brew, the Mlada Fronta newspaper daily has reported. Czechs are famed for their love of beer, and the new party could find some supporters in the June 8 elections, the first free balloting in more than 40 years, due on June 8. "The main objective of the party is to decrease the price of beer while increasing its quality and consumption," Mlada Fronta said. It also wants 1991 proclaimed the "year of Czechoslovak beer." Czechoslovakia ranks second in Europe in per capita consumption of beer, and the price of a pint of high-quality Pilsner Urquell is a mere six Czechoslovak crowns (18 U.S.) cents), quite affordable even for Czechs who have to save three years' average salary to buy the cheapest Skoda car. Mlada Fronta did not say how much the Pilson beerlovers want the price reduced.

Global weather (major world cities)

TOKYO 05 41 07 45 Cloudy

M—indicates relating information.

Bonn to spend \$3.45b to improve E. German living

BONN (Agencies) — The government said Wednesday it would spend 5.7 billion marks (\$3.45 billion) to improve living conditions in East Germany, a day after the two countries and four allied powers agreed on talks towards German reunification.

Foreign ministers of the German states, France, Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States announced late Tuesday after meeting in Canada that they would open negotiations on security and political issues connected with reunification.

No date for such a meeting was given, but before it takes place the two Germanys will discuss the considerable domestic hurdles that must be overcome to unify the countries.

With Tuesday's announcement, the powers that divided Nazi Germany following World War II acknowledged that remification was inevitable now that Communist rule had collarged in East Germany.

East German Premier Hans Modrow ended a two-day summit with West German leaders Wednesday that illustrated his

decaying authority in the former hardline Communist state as it approaches its first multiparty

elections next month. Modrow, a Communist who oversees an interim government that includes non-Communists and opposition figures, lacked a consensus in his cabinet to reach any significant agreement on a West German plan to unify the two countries' economies.

Instead, he had asked Bonn officials for up to 15 billion marks (\$9 billion) in "solidarity aid" to tide East Germany's economy over until the March 18 elections. Modrow assured West German

businessmen he would carry out

economic reforms before the

country's first free elections next Modrow, who agreed with Chancellor Helmut Kohl Tuesday to work towards monetary union, met industrialists on the

second and final day of his visit to

"Modrow assured us that he will push through an intensive working programme (of reform) before the March 18 elections," Tyll Necker, president of the

West German Federation of Industries, said after meeting the Communist leader.

Necker said they agreed economic and monetary union could not be separated. East German Economic Minister Christa Luft also took part in the discussion.

They also agreed East German laws and regulations should be brought in line with both West German and European Community (EC) standards, he said. Thousands of East Germans

wanted to set up private companies. "But there are still too many restrictions," Necker added. Modrow and Luft had agreed to work to get rid of remaining restrictions on private enterprise rapidly, he said. The announcement in Ottawa

of unification talks was unexpected because the Soviet Union and East Germany had previously tried to stall movement towards rejoining the German states. It appeared the sudden impetus emerged from fears of possible East German economic collapse and beliefs that union with West Germany was the only

Philippines on alert amid coup rumours

MANILA (R) — The Philippine military has declared a nationwide Red Alert to thwart any attack by rebel soldiers trying to overthrow President Corazon Aguino, Armed Forces Chief General Renato de Villa announced Wednesday.

He said the alert was a precaution against any attempts by mutineers to disrupt next Sunday's gathering of political and military leaders at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) and the visit Monday of U.S. Defence

Secretary Dick Cheney. The Red Alert — the military's highest state of combat readiness — took effect Tuesday, De Villa told reporters.

A Manila newspaper recently reported that the rebels who nearly toppled Aquino in last December's coup attempt would launch a revolt on Valentine's Day. The mutiny was the sixth and most serious since Aquino came to power in 1986.

"We don't want any untoward incident to happen," De Villa said. "There are no specific threats... we just wanted to assure ourselves that the PMA graduation activity is carried out without any untoward incidents from any threat group."

He said the alert was also part of security arrangements for the visit of Cheney, who will hold talks with Manila officials on defence and security issues.

U.S., 3 Latin American states to hold drug summit today

CARTAGENA, Colombia (AP) - With the threat of drug traffickers' violence as a backdrop, authorities made final security preparations Wednesday on the eve of a drug summit by U.S. President George Bush and the Presidents of Colombia, Peru and Bolivia.

Some of the heaviest security in Colombia's history was planned during the meeting in the port city of Cartagena.

A U.S. helicopter carrier sailed off Colombia's coast, and Colombian authorities said about 5,000 security agents would be assigned to protect the heads of state. U.S. warplanes may be used to escott the presidential jet Air Force One and Bush's heli-

conter. "It's an unusual situation, because there are in Colombia these guerrilla bands, terrorist bands, with access to funds to purchase ... any kinds of arms, and so naturally there are unusual circumstances," U.S. National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft said Tuesday.

But, he said, "we're comfortable about the president's security."

Bush plans to meet with Presidents Virgilio Barco of Colombia, Alan Garcia of Peru and Jaime Paz Zamora of Bolivia at a guest house on a sealed-off, heavily guarded naval base. The U.S. president is scheduled to spend five hours in Cartagena. On Tuesday night, members of

the powerful Medellin drug cartel made a conciliatory gesture, saying they would give up their three largest cocaine laboratories with a combined monthly produc-

The Caracol Radio network report said the extraditables told a group of journalists in Medellin where the laboratories and chemicals are located, but as of early Wednesday, none of the facilities was reported found.

tion capacity of 21 tons.

The traffickers, who have made other offers of an end to the country's drug war in exchange for amnesty, said in a statement the move was a "contribution to our decision to fight for peace and strengthening of democracy in Colombia."

The government has consistently refused to get involved in any talks with the traffickers. Anthorities said Tuesday that kidnappers claiming to be leftist guerrillas abducted two U.S. citizens to protest Bush's visit. One of the kidnap victims was reportedly released, but the abductions heightened fears for the safety of the leaders.

On Tuesday afternoon, about 1,000 leftist labour union members marched into the heart of Cartagena to demonstrate against U.S. policies in Latin America. Marchers burned a paper U.S. flag and shouted in Spanish, "animal Gringos out of the Canal," referring to the Panama Can-

al, "murderer Yankees out of

Colombia," and "the drug summit is a fraud."

The half-kilometres march ended in front of the convention centre, where several hundred foreign journalists bave set up operations for covering the

In Bogota, police fired tear gas to disperse rock-throwing demonstrators during a march by about 100 students from National University who were protesting Bush's visit. No injuries were

A police spokesman said the kidnappings of the two U.S. citizens took place in the cocainetrafficking centre of Medellin and that the kidnappers were members of the National Liberation Army, a leftist guerrilla group. Drug traffickers have in the past posed as leftist insurgents and there was no way to confirm the kidnappers' identity.

The kidnap victims were identified as David Kent, a teacher, and James Archer Donnelly, a businessman, the police spokesman told the Associated Press.

Donnelly was released unburt about three hours after he was kidnapped, said an official at the school where Kent is a teacher, speaking on condition of anony-

The school official said Donnelly was told by his captors that they were leftist guerrillas and had taken the action to protest Bush's planned visit.

tre of the country's high technolo-'Any resort to violence by the gy and research centre. But'the Mohammad Khan flew to Banga-Red Army would probably delay lore to inspect the crash site, and official said confirmation of that a real solution and put glasnost and perestroika in the shadow. Fresh fighting erupts at He who sows the wind will reap the storm," Tehran Radio said. H. Kong detention centre

HONG KONG (R) - Police used teargas to quell two serious riots within hours of each other at Hong Kong's Whitehead Detention Centre, where international aid workers say violence is a

feature of life. Fighting first crapted Tuesday night, when an estimated 300 boat people battled each other with makeshift weapons. Twentyseven people were injured, 17 of them Vietnamese, before riot police using teargas restored order after three hours.

Shortly after dawn Wednesday, as police and prison officers finished a search for weapons, fresh fighting involving some 70 inmates crupted and teargas was again used.

Police said another 19 people were injured and taken to hospital and prison officers said the situation was "contained" after two hours.

Police blamed the violence on long-simmering factional differences between people from the

there's no one to replace them." "We're bushed — it's not easy to muster up enough officers to deal with this. The situation is serious. We are talking about 6,000 people here," he said in a reference to the number of boat people in the sections hit by

Camp workers said many women and children had hidden themselves in the huge, barracklike camp dormitories when the fighting erupted.

Whitehead, in Hong Kong's New Territories region, houses some 20,000 Victnamese boat people. Camp workers describe it as a place plagued by gangs. where extortion and violence are an everyday occurrence.

Attacks on politicians mar Japan election campaign

TOKYO (AP) — Attacks on two politicians and threats against at least two others in the last month have cast a shadow over the campaign for Sunday's parliamentary elections and led to tightened security for the 953 candidates. The targets all have been

famous politicians, and the alleged attackers members of Japan's right-wing fringe. On Wednesday, an anonymous

male caller said a bomb had been planted on a commercial flight that Socialist Party Chairwoman Takako Doi was taking to Taka-, matsu, 547 kilometres southwest of Tokyo, police said. No bomb was found on the jet, and police refused to comment on the motive for the hoax.

On Tuesday, Koichi Hamada of the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was beaten over the head with a steel rod in a city east of Tokyo following a campaign rally, suffering moder-

Police said they arrested Minoru Uzawa, 27, a member of one of Japan's largest criminal syndicates, on suspicion of assault. They said Uzawa told them he attacked Hamada, who is campaigning for election to the Lower House of parliament, because he "disliked him."

Former Prime Minister Yazzhiro Nakasone was out campaigning in his constituency Sunday when 23-year-old Koji Konishi, a member of a rightist group. barged into his campaign office in Takasaki, 100 kilometres northwest of Tokyo, police said. Konishi fired shots from a handgun at a television set, a campaign poster and a doll symbolising good luck, police said.

None of the 11 people in the office was injured.

Konishi reportedly told police he didn't intend to kill anyone, but disliked Nakasone and wanted to "create a ruckus" to show the rest of Japan how the politician "had made a fool of the Japanese people."

Including Hamada, 27 important politicians in postwar Japan have been assaulted, the National Police Agency says. Most were controversial figures who angered right-wing fringe groups.

Ultrarightists have grown increasingly violent after keeping low profile during a year of mourning following Emperor Hirohito's death on Jan. 7, 1989 Although guns are outlawed in lapan, rightist extremists are believed to use their alleged ties with criminal syndicates to procure weapons.

Cheney arrives in Seoul

SEOUL (AP) — U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney reaffirmed Wednesday Washington's "unequivocal" security commitment to South Korea and said there would be no large-scale cutbacks in U.S. troops.

"Speculation regarding a U.S. withdrawal from the peninsula or drastic reduction of our troop presence here disregards the obvious threat to peace on the peninsula which remains real and has not diminished," Cheney said upon arrival at a military airport outside Seoul.

Cheney flew in from Hawaii, where he reviewed overall U.S. military deployment and the latest Soviet military moves in the Pacific. Seoul was his first Asian stop in a two-week tour that also will take him to Hong Kong, Manila and Tokvo. "The U.S. commitment to

(South) Korea remains firm and unequivocal ... and there should be no misunderstanding regarding the firmness of that commitment," he said. Chency was to formally begin

his South Korean visit Thursday by receiving a briefing from U.S. military officials and holding talks with his South Korean counterpart, Lee Sang-Hoon. In between, he was to meet with President Roh Tae-Woo. On Friday, the secretary is to

visit U.S. and South Korean units along the front line and the truce village of Panmunjom inside the demilitarised zone separating South and North Korea.

Chency is scheduled to leave for Hong Kong early Saturday en route to Manila for three days of talks and visits to Clark Air Base and the Subic Bay Naval Base, among the largest American military installations outside the U.S. continent.

Although he will have a round of meetings Monday with Philippines officials. President Corazon Aquino has said she will not meet with him. Although Cheney has said he

will have plenty to keep him busy, the Aquino snub drew a rare public rebuff from President George Bush, according to a published report.

"She can learn a great deal from Dick Cheney about the way we view the very important United States presence in the Pacific," the president said Tuesday in an interview with New York Newsday.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

2 killed in U.S. plane crash

BURLINGTON, North Carolina (AP) - A 20-seat business turboprop crashed in a wooded field in this city Tuesday evening killing the two people aboard and narrowly missing an automobile dealership, officials said. The Beech King Air twin-engine turboprop went down about a kilometre from Interstate 85 around 6:30 p.m. (2330 GMT), said police Sgt. Vickie Saunders. The Holt Manufacturing Co. plane was en route from New York to Burlington Municipal Airport when it crashed, officials said. An earlier report had said the craft was a commuter plane. The plane went down in a field across the street from a house, said an official with Alamance County Emergency Management who refused to give his name. The aircraft did not burn on impact. The pilot and a passenger were killed, Ms. Saunders said. Holt, a textile manufacturing company based in Burlington, would not confirm whether its plane was involved in the crash.

Winds push more oil ashore in California

HUNTINGTON BEACH, California (AP) - Blustery winds have pushed more goo onto Califonia beaches as reinforcements join the battle to sop up the oily onslaught a week after a tanker spill fouled the caost. The cleanup crew was tripled Tuesday to 1,120. workers on 9.6 kilometres of oil-stained beach and another 300 workers were being trained to help clean up the crude oil spill. Fifteen kilometres of beach in southern California remained closed. Meanwhile, the 247-metre tanker American Trader, which was being leased by a British Petroleum subsidiary at the time of the spill, docked for repairs. A Newport Beach man filed one of the first lawsuits in connection with the spill. The class-action lawsmit, filed by Chet Holifield in Federal court in Los Angeles, seeks damages and money for economic losses. Among the defendants are the ship's owner and the company that chartered the tanker.

Drug war hots up in Golden Triangle

MAE AI, Thai-Burmese Border (R) - A war between rival bandit armies over drug-trafficking routes out of Burma's Golden Triangle escalated Wednesday as guerrillas surrounded a camp belonging to opium warlord Khun Sa. From this Thai border checkpoint, the thud of mortar rounds could be heard as Khun Sa troops moved out of their stronghold on the other side of the border to reinforce the besieged village of doi Lak Taeng. Thai border police said there had been heavy fighting between Khun Sa's Muang Tai army and a splinter faction of the defunct Burma Communist Party (BCP) over a strategic narcotic route from the Golden Triangle. The area, straddling inaccessible corners of Burma, Laos, China and Thailand, is one of the world's major sources of opium. Ethnic minorities battling the Burmese and Laotian governments have long fought each other for control of production and export routes.

Voyager 1 photographs solar system

PASADENA, California (R) — The U.S. Voyager 1 spacecraft has turned itself into the solar system's family photographer, taking group snapshots of the Earth and neighbouring planets. Voyager project scientist Edward Stone said in Pasadena, that the spacecraft's onboard computer had been programmed to turn on its cameras at 0100 GMT Wednesday. A spokesman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said the photo-session would produce "an unprecedented family portrait" of most of the planets of this solar system. Voyager I. which completed its mission to explore the outer planets 10 years ago, was due to take 64 photographs of the solar system over a four-hour period. Stone said it would not be known if this, the last task of the spacecraft before it speeds off into outer space, was successful until the photographs, being recorded on tape by Voyager 1, were played back to Earth in late March.